

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Each year I see this Feast as an opportunity to think about what baptism means in our lives, and specifically how am I living out my own baptism. Today we celebrate the moment when Jesus went down to the Jordan River and asked John the Baptist to baptize Him. The One who did not need to be saved from sin, identified as God’s beloved Son, chose to be baptized, as He says to John, “to fulfill all righteousness.” In being baptized, Jesus demonstrates His commitment to the Father’s Will. In response, God revealed through the voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit that this was the Messiah, the Anointed One, His beloved Son with whom He is well pleased.

From the moment of His baptism, Jesus is sent to perform His ministry of preaching the Kingdom of God. He begins what is often referred to as His public ministry. If you think about it, our baptism was a public beginning as well. We were brought to the church by our families, our life in Christ was begun, and we began to live as sons and daughters of God seeking to bring His light and His love into the lives of others.

I ask this EVERY YEAR...Do you actually know the date and place of your baptism? I think it is safe to say only a handful of us have that information in our heads. Sadly we do not celebrate our baptism date as we do our birthday date and, yet, it is the day we became a son or daughter of God and received the promise of eternal union with God! Given all that this date means in terms of our eternal life and status as (adopted) children of God, wouldn’t we want to celebrate it

with great joy?

So, if you do not know your date of baptism, I encourage you to find it out, and to celebrate it with great joy for it marks the anniversary of your becoming a child of God.



Did you know Pope Francis proclaimed a “Year of St. Joseph?” With all that was going on in December it may be that we missed this announcement. Back on December 8, 2020, in his Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark this significant occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021.

Some of the terminology that Pope Francis used in this Apostolic Letter to describe Saint Joseph caught my attention, such as, a beloved father, tender and loving, obedient, and courageous.



The Holy Father wrote this Apostolic Letter amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people in a time when we have come to experience that “our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked.” People who do not look for the limelight, who exercise patience and who offer hope to others every day. **In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”**

In Joseph, “Jesus saw the tender love

of God.” **He also teaches each of us the importance of obedience to God’s will.** Pope Francis writes, “Even through Joseph’s fears, God’s will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.”

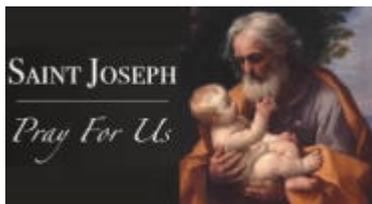
Isn’t that something we all need to learn! Joseph did not always understand what was happening, but he was obedient to God. He put his faith in what God said to him through the angel. Despite the understandable fear and anxiety the situation might have given him, he was obedient to the Father’s Will. With his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.”

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that explains, but accepts.” Full of hope and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in him, Joseph is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” He teaches us that faith in God and His love for us enables us to face the moments of life with confidence. Joseph did not look for shortcuts to turn away from what life threw at him, rather, he confronted reality with open eyes. As the Pope wrote, “Just as God told Joseph: “Son of David, do not be afraid!”, so he seems to tell us: “Do not be afraid!” We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage.”

The true gift of self...Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”

In this challenging time of COVID-19, we can turn to St. Joseph with great hope:

- We can turn to him as protector from harm, even as he protected Mary and the child Jesus from Herod's wrath;
- St. Joseph was worker and provider for the Holy Family, so to him we can entrust ourselves and our nation in the face of unprecedented unemployment and economic distress;
- As model husband and father, we turn to St. Joseph at a time when good examples of both are so desperately needed. We can ask him to help strengthen our families – as well as the bonds of our “parish family” – at a time when these can be fragile.
- As patron of the dying, we can invoke the intercession of St. Joseph on all who are in their last moments of life, including the elderly and others with terminal disease.



More reflections to come in the year ahead on Saint Joseph and his role in our lives. The Pastoral Staff is now contemplating events and programs that will help us to understand better the role Saint Joseph plays in our own lives. Stay tuned... for now we encourage you to pray a daily prayer to St Joseph as Pope Francis ended his letter with:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

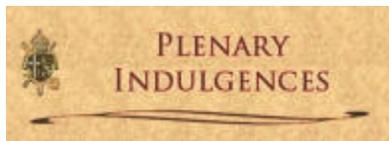
*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy,
and courage,*

and defend us from every evil. Amen.

There are available to us all Plenary Indulgences for the Year of St. Joseph...All this year until Dec. 8, 2021, the decree from the Apostolic Peniten-

tiary, which is in charge of indulgences, has established that the faithful “following his example can daily strengthen their life of faith in the full fulfillment of God's will.” They will have “the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that today afflict the contemporary world.”



We can gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, “with a soul detached from any sin” if we participate in the Year of St. Joseph in several specific ways that the Apostolic Penitentiary has established for us to gain the plenary indulgence.

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. “St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Everyone who entrusts their daily

activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”

- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

In Light of Health Crisis

The Apostolic Penitentiary has also taken into account the worldwide situation regarding the health crisis. The office stated the “gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment holds them, they will recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, trust in God the pains and discomforts of their life.”

DRIVE-THRU HOLY COMMUNION will be offered to our Virtual Family, once again, NEXT SUNDAY, January 17th from 1:30-2:30PM. We are pleased to be offering another opportunity for our parishioners who have yet to return to “in-person” Mass to come by and receive Holy Communion without even leaving your car!

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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



Join our
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Experience Fellowship

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-  @sboscheshire
-  @sboscheshire
-  www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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

Pastoral Staff

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- 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
- Mr. Regis O’Neill, Admin Assistant for Communications
- Mr. Anthony Ginnetti, Sacristan

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These opportunities have been so well received and we know that many long to be able to receive Holy Communion so we are doing our best to offer it at least once a month.

It is as safe as we can possibly make it. **You don’t even need to leave the car! Enter the Church Campus from the Main Street entrance and follow the signs around the Church.** These signs will guide you through some preparation prayers, then to a station where Father Federico and I will be there one on each side of the car. **Roll down the windows and receive the Holy Eucharist. Please be sure to consume Holy Communion before pulling away from us...**then pull forward to do your prayer of thanksgiving and be on your way.

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 end the Christmas Season today with this Baptism of the Lord, once again, I wish to say Merry Christmas! Stay safe!!!

Father Romans



Our collection for the week of January 3rd

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory \$16,469.05

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

Online

Offertory\$13,170.92



Give Online at

stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/



MASS INTENTIONS



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

Monday, January 11th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Edmond & Marie Montano	Linda & Ray Manzelli
9:00 a.m. SBC	Ted Scalzo	His Family

Tuesday, January 12th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, January 13th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Mary Dziekan	Jack & Lisa Dziekan
9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Philomena Mongillo	Peter & Mary Mongillo

Thursday, January 14th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Brigham Metcalfe	Casey & Stephen Downes
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Friday, January 15th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Ellen Joan Kelly	Diana & Nicholas Carriero
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Edward Halpin	The Chamberlain Family

Saturday, January 16th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Anne Perrotti	The Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Mark & George Mesite	Pam & Dennis Matfus
5:15 p.m. SBC	Ralph Chamberlain	The Chamberlain Family

Sunday, January 17th: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. SBC	Generoso & Michael Violano	Angela & Marty Krause
8:00 a.m. SBC	Anne-Elisabeth Petroff	Her Children
9:00 a.m. SBC	Metro Crema	Susan & Jack Devine
10:30 a.m. SBC	Millicent Larkin	The Larkin Family
12:00 p.m. SBC	James Walter Quinn, Jr.	John & Maria Mariani and 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 15th 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



DRIVE-THRU CONFESSION

Drive-thru CONFESSIONS available every Saturday at 3:00pm until heard. Drive up to the St. Bridget School entrance and a priest will come out to hear your confession.

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



St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for Robert Joseph Wade—In Living Prayer Requested by Patty Wade Wright, Deborah Wade, Margaret Wade LoPresto, Robert Joseph Wade, Jr. and Brett Robert Sogan

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICES



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, 1/10 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**
- ✝ Monday, 1/11 at 10AM—Getting to Know our Holy Family—a brief talk about **Saint Marianne Cope**
- ✝ Wednesday, 1/13 at 10AM—Pulling Back the Veil—a **Deep Dive of Father Federico's Desk**
- ✝ Friday, 1/15—one hour of **Adoration**
- ✝ Sunday, 1/17 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**

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

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

Drive-thru **Communion** on Sunday, January 17th from 1:30-2:30pm. See Father's article on pages 3 & 4 for details

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

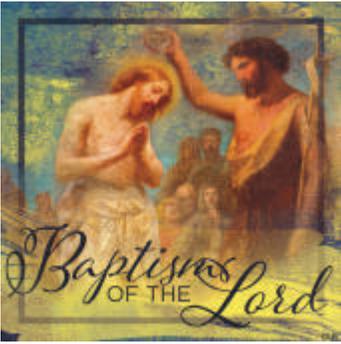
www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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 Baptism of the Lord

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011021.cfm>

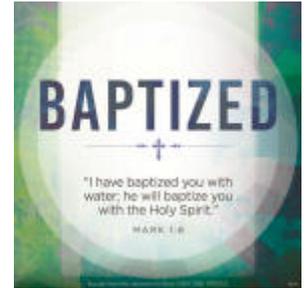
In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism; it was a preparation for the Christian Baptism we celebrate today, and through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received. In accepting John's baptism, Jesus, though sinless, united himself with all sinners.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, Jesus' baptism was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, the voice from heaven speaks to all who are present. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism shows that something new is beginning through the baptism and ministry of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus is considered an important manifestation of God in the person of Jesus, another epiphany. Jesus' baptism inaugurates his mission. Mark's Gospel moves quickly from the report of Jesus' baptism to Jesus' temptations in the desert to his ministry in Galilee after John's arrest. The end of the ministry of John the Baptist is the beginning of Jesus' ministry. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

Surprisingly, on this the last day of the Christmas season the Gospel does not tell a story from Jesus' childhood. Instead the Gospel reveals Jesus' relationship to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. We believe that through Baptism we are also made children of God.

www.loyolapress.com



For more information to better understand the readings, go to bit.ly/38g8Fc0



Activities for this Week's Liturgy

Word Search—bit.ly/2LbS9kr

Coloring Page—bit.ly/3hPljSm

Crossword Puzzle—bit.ly/38nGqZa

STORIES OF FAITH

"We dance and we weep and we journey towards God." My faith story is who I am—without my belief in God, I would be but an empty shell. During the joyful and sorrowful events in my life, the only constant has been my God. Through the laughter and the tears, and there have been a lot of both, my faith has been my joy, my hope, my strength, the depth of my being.

I am so grateful that my parents raised me in the Catholic Faith, but it wasn't until I became an adult that my connection to God became all consuming. Growing up, I was educated in Catholic Schools and much of the experience of the faith was perfunctory; praying daily, going to Mass, receiving the Sacraments, reading the Bible, taking theology courses—all being done on task.

Then I became quiet and reflective, and only then did I realize that God's presence in my life is so great, so powerful, so consuming. Only then did I experience that my faith is who I am, when I am happy, when I am sad, when I am strong, when I am weak, when I love, when I don't love, when I am peaceful and when I am angry.

"I can do all things through Christ Jesus, who strengthens me."

Parishioner's name: Anonymous

Ask Father

Dear Father: Do we know why the Wise Men give Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh?

Dear friend in Christ,

Great question. These were items of great value in the ancient world. It would have been a very significant and generous gift for Mary and Joseph to receive on behalf of Jesus.

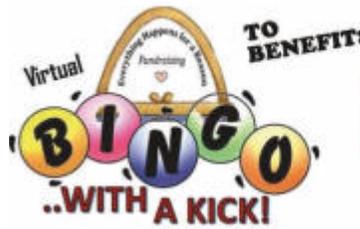
But there are much deeper meanings to each of the three gifts. The Wise Men probably didn't know it, but each of their gifts revealed insights about the Baby they were visiting.



Gold was a gift given to kings during this period of history. Jesus was born the King of the Jews. He is also the King of the Universe. Gold represents the authority of Jesus.

Frankincense was an aromatic spice that was burned during religious ceremonies, producing a smoke and scent like incense. Incense was, and still is, used in religious rituals by a priest who lights the coals and waves the thurible, which releases the smoke. Frankincense was given to Jesus as a symbol of His High Priesthood. Hebrews 4:14 explicitly names Jesus "the Great High Priest": *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,^[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.*

Myrrh was a spice used to anoint bodies before they were buried. The gift of myrrh was a prophetic foreshadowing of the exact reason why Jesus was born – to die on the Cross in expiation for our sins and to be buried and later be raised from the dead!



Thursday, February 4th at 7:00pm

Brought to you by: **zoom**

In support of Social Distancing

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™

**National Chains (i.e. Amazon)

KICK!—the Prize not chosen is RAFFLED OFF!

Bingo Cards/KICK Raffle Tickets are Pre-Sale Only

BINGO CARDS			KICK RAFFLE
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HOW TO ORDER	
On-Line: Scan code with your phone's camera 	Call/Text: 860.550.3249 Facebook Message: <i>Everything Happens For A Reason Fundraising</i>

Welcome
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Christopher & Bianca Bolduc

Andrew & Brittney Caron

Robert & Carolyn Maloney

Christian Qunit & Christianna Merrit

Michael Tiezzi & Theresa Winkel

Apologetics 101: Victoria's Farewell

In this special edition, Victoria shares her thoughts on her time spent at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish.

- I really believe that God led me to Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish.
 - I was praying and discerning what the Lord wanted me to do next.
 - I was hired on my birthday!
 - Father Frisbie served at my home parish after he retired and we had a special connection. Check out this picture of him and me!
- I have felt so at home here and so loved!
- Ironically, during the shutdown due to the pandemic, I felt even more connected with everyone and got to be well known by parishioners.
- At the same time that I was really starting to feel like I belonged at Saint Bridget of Sweden, I was discerning with the Passionists Nuns and feeling called to join them.
- I felt very torn! What was going on? Why did God bring me to St. Bridget of Sweden now?
 - **Because God asks us to sacrifice the best things we have to him** - in the Old Testament God told the people to sacrifice the best of their livestock and crops to him. He asked them to dedicate their first-born sons to him.
 - God gave me a good and beautiful thing in being part of the Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish family **so I could give it back to him as a true sacrifice.**
 - I won't be running away from anything. God speaks to us in times of peace, not when we are restless and grasping for something different to do. When we are content with the present moment then he can tell us what the next step is.
- What I want to leave you with: I just want you to know that Jesus loves you and he died for you!



Victoria would love to hear from you! Please send her your prayer requests. Her ability to respond will be limited, especially during the first couple of years. She will send updates to the Parish as she is able to.

Her contact info:
Passionist Nuns
2715 Churchview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
Phone: 412-881-1155
Email: passionistnuns@gmail.com



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!



St. Bridget School Update

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



12th Annual Community Awards Program

Coming in February!



We are happy to share that Mrs. Normand's PK-4 class was still able to perform their annual Christmas Pageant. This holiday highlight continues to make us smile!



Congratulations to Chloe Retuya for winning one of the Chris Corbett Scholarships for Academics! Chloe has been a SBS student since Pre-K and has always been an outstanding student. We are proud of her and her academic successes!



It's almost that time again! Our students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 will participate in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest this year. In the past, many of our SBS students have won and we look forward to sharing the results with you in the coming months.

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.

Stay tuned for our Virtual Open House in celebration of National Catholic Schools Month produced by Story Real Studios!

Join our School Community

St. Bridget School, Cheshire

@st_bridget_school

www.stbridgetschool.org

St. Bridget School
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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

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

ATTENTION PLANNERS!!

Our next **Bedrolls for the Homeless Workshop** is scheduled for Sunday, January 10th from 1:00 – 3:00PM in the **St. Bridget of Sweden Parish—Parish Center (front)**. Bring your project, plarn, plastic bags, curiosity or just yourselves. Any questions can be directed to Leah Judge (203-271-0761) or Nancy Humiston (203-272-6278).



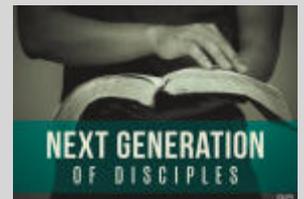
Youth Ministry

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

Verse of the Week

Exodus 2:2

"This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you."



Saint of the Week

St. Paul the Hermit

Feast Day: January 15th

Bio: St. Paul the Hermit was born in Egypt around the year 233. He was orphaned at the age of 15, and fled shortly thereafter to a cave in the desert to escape the persecution of Decius, the Roman Emperor. Although he initially intended to return once the persecution ended, he went on to live in that cave for about 90 years. He drank from a nearby spring, clothed himself with the leaves of a palm tree, and even reportedly received loaves of bread, carried to him by a bird each day. He spent his time praying that God would make the world a better place, and lived to the age of about 112. He is known as the "First Hermit," and is a vibrant example of contemplative prayer for us all. St. Paul the Hermit, pray for us!

Upcoming Events

Looking to make your 2021 better than your 2020? Join us for a meeting of the Next Generation of Disciples high school youth group! We'll meet this Sunday, January 10th, from 6:30-8:30pm in the St. Bridget School gym. We have games, snacks, and a welcoming community. Give it a shot - you won't regret it!



Cheshire K of C KNIGHTS KORNER

by Harold Metz, Council Trustee

Grand Knight, Jason Moliterno —jason_moliterno@yahoo.com

It's the new year and we as Knights are trying to decide if we are making our way forward, trudging our way forward or charging our way forward. Certainly if you judge by the popularity of our Grab 'N Go Dinner, it's definitely a charge with round two this weekend and a varied menu in the works.

But it's also a trudge forward if we all think of the casualties of the pandemic. The former K of C Museum, rededicated as the Blessed Michael J. McGivney Pilgrimage Center, had to close its doors rather than run the risk of spreading the virus. Probably the most popular exhibition there is the Christmastime "Creches of the World" which this year has been sorely missed. It presents a varied and international depiction of the Nativity every year. Space does not permit us to go into great detail, but to give you an idea of how varied and devout in each one's special way, below are two offerings from previous years:



Varied? Certainly. Devout? That would be in the eye and the heart of the beholder. We all hope this renowned exhibit will be available to all next year. In the meantime the virtual address is

<https://www.michaelmcgivneycenter.org>

And after our "charge" and our "trudge," we "make our way" with a correction:

In our Knights Korner article two weekends ago we announced the winners in our *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest. While the winning entrants were listed accurately, two posters were inadvertently reversed. The corrections are below:



Miranda Machado
Age 5, Category 1



Meredith Berkun
Age 10, Category 2



Chloe Retuya
Age 13, Category 3

If you would like to see these fine Christmas posters full size please go to our website cheshirekofc.org to view them and the other 41 entries in the contest. Our apologies to Chloe and Meredith on the reversal.



2021 MASS BOOK OPEN

The 2021 Mass book will open through December beginning **Monday, January 11, at 10:00am.**

Please call the rectory at 203-272-3531 to reserve a Mass.



At this time we are looking for your favorite **DESSERT** recipes.

Send in those family specialties to:

cookbook@stbridgetcheshire.org.



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.



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!



St. Bridget School
Cheshire, CT

Spring Raffle

St Bridget is having their first Prize-A-Day raffle.

For \$10 you will have a chance to win 31 prizes during the month of March. Purchase your raffle tickets starting February 1st.

Prizes will include gift cards, items and cash!

All proceeds to benefit St. Bridget School (it's for the children)

Tune into our school Facebook page (St. Bridget School, Cheshire) to see the daily winner.

More details to follow.....

Any questions – please reach out to Molly Johnson at 203-915-4238 or molson1985@hotmail.com

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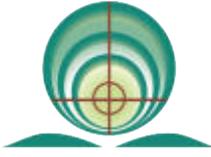
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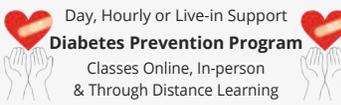


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