

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

This past week, the State of Connecticut announced some more changes to the COVID restrictions. One of those changes involves us! The Governor announced that he is easing up on the number of people that can be gathered in a House of Worship. His plan allows for 50% capacity provided the proper social distancing can be maintained.

With that said, and after consultation with the leaders of our Parish Pastoral



Council, I have decided that we will open up our Masses to 200 people right now. I know this is not 50% capacity, but in reality we cannot permit that number of people and still ensure proper social distancing. What we will do is as follows. We will open all Masses to 200 people beginning THIS WEEK-END and see how that works out for a couple of weeks. Then we will meet again and discuss whether it is possible to increase that number and still provide a safe environment for all who come to worship with our family of faith. I want more people to be together but we have to do this strategically and prudently maintaining the safety of our parishioners.

This is exciting news! And as I have said all the time since the beginning of this pandemic, IT IS COVID. And we know with COVID-19 things are constantly changing, and we will continue to adjust based on the guidelines issued from the State and from the Archdiocese.

Therefore, we will reconfigure the pews to accommodate this change! In the beginning of reopening we per-

mitted extra space between the rows, certainly more than the required amount, as a means of being overly cautious and safe. Now with this change, we are going to open every other pew, which still permits proper social distancing.

I am SO grateful to Lynn Krieg and Jim Mitchell, Co-Chairs of our Parish Pastoral Council, for all that they have been doing and continue to do to assist us in this process of reopening! As you can imagine with everything constantly in flux, having two people there to assist in making the necessary decisions really has been a true blessing. Their input and counsel have been a source of great inspiration to me! I know I speak for us all in saying thank you to them for their daily efforts to ensure a safe environment for all. Daily they are monitoring the sign-ups for Mass, removing duplicates, emailing or printing lists, coordinating volunteers, as well as dealing with all my text, emails, and calls. They are truly remarkable and patient! Thank you both!

We ask all who attend Mass here at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish either weekday or weekend to continue to make a reservation online! BUT THERE IS ONE CHANGE! We are moving away from using SignUp Genius and moving to a new software that is more user friendly and designed for churches! We are beginning to use software from Parish Solutions. It will still be found on our website at

www.stbridgetcheshire.org.

You will still visit the website to sign up or call the parish office to have one of our staff members assist you in signing up in advance. Parish Solutions describes their software as follows:

Now you can allow parishioners to make reservations for limited seating events. Built specifically

for Catholic Churches handling reduced capacity events for social distancing purposes, our Mass Reservation System is the solution for which you have been looking. Mobile friendly, email confirmations, printable lists, and super simple interface make our Reservation System the perfect solution.

Our staff has looked into other software and sign up solutions but it seems this is the best one! There is no commitment, so if we find after some time that it is not as user-friendly as they claim, then we will look into other options again. Stay tuned...IT IS COVID.

Please remember we are still only using the front door or south door entrances, someone will continue to greet you and check you in, and while in church PLEASE REMEMBER masks must be worn!



We continue to ask that there be no congregational singing. Also when approaching for communion keep masks on, approach single file via the center aisle, remain six feet distant in the communion line from those not in your household as marked by tape in the aisle, and receive communion in the hand. Step to the side to lower one's mask to consume the host, then reposition the mask and return to one's seat via the side aisle.

Also, just by way of reminder when receiving the host in the hand, please place one hand on top of the other, keeping the palm fully open, and waiting for the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to place the host in your hand before moving. Please do not cup your hand, try to take the host between your fingers from the minister, or move quickly. We have to do our part to avoid contact with the communion minister. Following these procedures ensures the safety of all involved.

Donations for the collections may be put in the corresponding offering baskets on the communion rail (they are covered with a red cloth) or by using our online giving portal, available on the parish website at

www.stbridgetcheshire.org.

Again, I personally thank you all for your flexibility and patience as we navigate these uncharted waters of the pandemic. Let us continue to pray for all those affected by COVID, and those working diligently for treatments, vaccines, and other remedies—physical, financial and emotional—that one day soon we can return to our regular worship practices and daily routines. Finally, if you or someone you know is in need of any assistance during this time, please contact me to let me know so that we may reach out to them with whatever help we may be able to provide. May God continue to bless us all!

LENT 2021:



The Pastoral Staff really felt like there is a longing in all of our hearts as we deal with this pandemic that is a call for more! But we also recognize that we are made for more! We are made for more than isolation. We are made for more than being fearful to go out in public. We are made for more than sitting in our lazy boy chair watching Mass on some device. We are made for relationship! And in Lent we are called to turn to Christ. We are called to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a means to a deepening awareness of our need for Christ in our lives. More to come but for now I invite you to start thinking about this question in your time of prayer. want more? I do! Do you?



- Weekend of February 20 & 21—*Feed the Hungry*
 - non-perishable food items for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry
- Weekend of February 27 & 28—*Give drink to the Thirsty*
 - beverages (water, juice, coffee, etc.) for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry
- Weekend of March 6 & 7—*Clothe the naked*
 - new (WHITE) socks for the Saint Vincent DePaul Shelter in Waterbury or onesies for use at Carolyn's Place
- Weekend of March 13 & 14—*Shelter the Homeless*
 - a monetary collection for the Saint Vincent DePaul Shelter in Waterbury
- Weekend of March 20 & 21—*Visit the Sick*
 - make Easter cards to be given to those in skilled nursing facilities or our homebound parishioners
- Weekend of March 27 & 28—**Palm Sunday**—*Visit the imprisoned*
 - Father Villa who works with the prisoners in the Cheshire Prison asked for us to purchase a book by Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan called *The Road of Hope*. He was a Cardinal in the Church who was imprisoned in Vietnam for thirteen years and instead of giving in to despair and self-pity, he found God in the darkness and that his life had purpose. It is a story of hope for those Father Villa serves. The book is \$24 so we will have a special basket to collect funds in order to purchase some of these books for his ministry.
- Weekend of April 3 & 4—**Easter Sunday**—*Bury the Dead*
 - as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we remember our loved ones who have gone before us in faith. May they share in His Resurrection!

ASH WEDNESDAY will be a little different this year! We will begin Lent with Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and we will have Masses with the Distribution of Ashes at 7AM, 9AM, and 5:30PM.

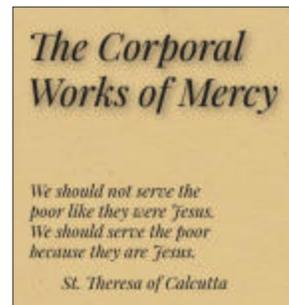
We will also have the distribution of ashes from 11AM until 1PM, and 4PM until 5:15PM in Saint Bridget Church. **Last year we offered this opportunity and it was very well received!** You are invited to come during these hours, say a few prayers in quiet, then approach to have ashes administered to you.

Please note that we will be distributing ashes using Q-tips cotton swabs in order to avoid any contact and make this as safe as possible during this time of pandemic. A new Q-tips swab will be used for each person, discarded, and buried in sacred ground in the following days.

Don't forget that this year, during Lent, we will, once again as a parish family focus on the Corporal Works

of Mercy in a special way. It will be an opportunity for us as a family of faith to reach out to others with the mercy and love of God

and to fulfill the call of Pope Francis to be instruments of mercy in the lives of others. ***IT's COVID so things will be a little different.*** It is our hope that each weekend our parishioners will bring the items and leave them at the entrances to make it easier for our volunteers to collect them after all the Masses. We will not bring them to the altar this year (see insert above for list of items).



More to come on Lent...but ask yourself: want more?

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. Have a blessed week and 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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Parish

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 www.stbridgetcheshire.org

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

Pastoral Staff

- Mr. Paul Iadarola, Deacon, Senior Status
- Dr. Richard Wilber, Deacon
- Sister Patricia Cigrand, A.S.C.J., Pastoral Associate
- Mrs. Julia Atwood, Music Director
- Mrs. Donna Yateko, 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
- Mr. Regis O'Neill, 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 January 31st

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory \$9,918.17

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

Online

Offertory \$13,633.92



Give Online at
stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/

THANK YOU
for your generosity



ATTENTION PLARNERS!!

Our next **Bedrolls for the Homeless Workshop** is scheduled for Sunday, February 7th from 1:00 – 3:00PM in **Father Frisbie Hall**. 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).

The Plarners have been busy! To date, they have donated 148 knitted hats to the following organizations: St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, Brian Gibbons Homeless Outreach Program, Carolyn's Place, Safe Haven, Columbus House New Haven, Sister Pat and most recently Meriden Soup Kitchen which operates out of First Baptist Church.

It's been a heartwarming experience for all of us. If you know of any other organizations that might be in need, we'd be happy to add them to our list.

Show some love on St. Valentine's Weekend! The Cheshire Knights of Columbus will be collecting food for the Cheshire Community Food Pantry at all Masses on the weekend of February 13-14.

Items needed: Beef Stew, Clam Chowder, Beef Barley Soup, Minestrone Soup, Italian Wedding Soup, Any Chunky Soup, Salt and Pepper, Paper Towels, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Laundry Pods, Sponges, Cleaning Supplies, Dish Soap

Drop off your donations at the entrances of the church as you come to Mass.



MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 6th: Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. SBC	Francis H. O'Neill	The Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Brigham Metcalfe—Birthday Remembrance	The Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Richard Allen	The Family

Sunday, February 7th: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. SBC	James Barrante	St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society
8:00 a.m. SBC	Angelina Daddio	Angela & Marty Krause
9:00 a.m. SBC	Ray Burelle	Joseph & Nancy Gormley
10:30 a.m. SBC	Denise Poulin	The Lebel Family
12:00 p.m. SBC	Donna Rakers	The Chamberlain Family

Monday, February 8th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The Dolan Family	Mary Jeddry
9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Philomena Mongillo	Peter & Mary Mongillo
6:30 p.m. SBC	Mass for First Responders & Essential Personnel	

Tuesday, February 9th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, February 10th: Saint Scholastica, Virgin

7:00 a.m. SBC	The Jeddry Family	Mary Jeddry
9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Mary McNabola	Family

Thursday, February 11th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The Peters Family	Mary Jeddry
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Friday, February 12th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Charles & Catherine Hobson	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Jeffrey Nork	Our Lady's Rosary Group

Saturday, February 13th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Edward LaFrance, Jr.—2nd Anniversary	The Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Richard Schena—1st Anniversary	The Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Elvira Lupoli	Daughter, Laura

Sunday, February 14th: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. SBC	Martha Barchfeld	Rosalie & Bob Fountain
8:00 a.m. SBC	Patricia Rasmussen—10th Anniversary	Mike & Nancy Rasmussen
9:00 a.m. SBC	Walter Hardisty	St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society
10:30 a.m. SBC	A Special Intention	Madelyn Banti
12:00 p.m. SBC	Audrey Chamberlain	The Chamberlain 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, February 12th 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 Living & Deceased Members of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish



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

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, & 6:30pm
- ✝ 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 <http://bit.ly/SBoSMassSignUp>

JOIN US FOR OUR ONLINE SERVICES!

- ✝ Sunday, 2/7 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**
- ✝ Monday, 2/8 at 10AM—Getting to Know our Holy Family—if you love dogs, tune in to hear about **Saint Quiteria**
- ✝ Wednesday, 2/10 at 10AM—Pulling Back the Veil—a day in the life of your **Pastor**
- ✝ Friday, 2/12—one hour of **Adoration**
- ✝ Sunday, 2/14 at 10:30AM—Celebration of the **Mass**

Next Generation of Disciples high school youth group will meet next Sunday, February 14th, from 6:30-8:30pm in Father Frisbie.

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

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 Sunday, May 23, 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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for today can be found at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020721.cfm>

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

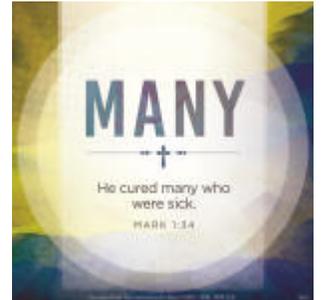
On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

www.loyolapress.com



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



Youth Ministry

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

Upcoming Events

Due to the Super Bowl, the Next Generation of Disciples will NOT meet on Sunday, February 7th. Enjoy the game! Join us next week on Valentine's Day, February 14th, for our next Faith in Film movie night! Pizza and beverages will be provided. All high schoolers are welcome!

Saint of the Week

Saint Scholastica

Feast Day: February 10th

Bio: St. Scholastica was born in 480 to a wealthy family in Italy. Little is known about her early life, but we do know that she founded a religious community near Monte Cassino at Plombariola. Fun fact: her community was just miles away from a monastery that her twin brother ran! Small world, right? Scholastica and her brother would meet at a nearby farmhouse once a year to visit with each other, since she was not allowed in the monastery. The two were very close. When Scholastica sensed that her life was ending, she begged her brother to stay one more day with her. He refused, as he was not allowed to spend a night outside of the monastery. Scholastica prayed that her brother would stay, and a severe thunderstorm broke out shortly thereafter. This prevented him from leaving! They parted the next morning, and she died three days later. Benedict, Scholastica's brother, reportedly saw his sister's soul rising to Heaven in the form of a dove. Saint Scholastica, pray for us!

Patron Saint of Nuns



Apologetics 101: Catholic Artwork

This week, Father Federico and Regis extend last week's discussion on the importance of beauty and share their favorite Catholic artwork.

- In 1999, Saint John Paul II wrote his famed "Letter to Artists." (To read the letter in its entirety, click here: bit.ly/3cxz47U)
- In it, he stresses the power which beauty has in so many artistic forms to inspire us, heal us, challenge us and lift us to God. He expresses his belief that "beauty will save the world."
- These are the closing lines of the letter: "Artists of the world, may your many different paths all lead to that infinite Ocean of beauty where wonder becomes awe, exhilaration, unspeakable joy."
- So, we decided to share our favorite works of art and hope that their beauty leads you to a renewed experience of our Loving God!

Father Federico: *"The Christ of the Breadlines", woodcarving, by Fritz Eichenberg, 1950.*

The first time I saw this, I almost wept. Jesus is depicted as the central figure in a line of starving, freezing people waiting for food. He, too, is cold and hidden. And, yet, the Lord is patient, He stands tall. He somehow brings light to the darkness which surrounds them. For me, this is what it means to say that Jesus is "God with us." Jesus does not merely wish us well from afar – He enters into our sufferings with us. Here is the God who is not ashamed to stand in the breadlines alongside us.



Learning later that the artist's experience of the Holocaust and subsequent conversion to Christianity inspired this piece has only increased my deep appreciation for it.

Regis O'Neill: *"The Light of the World", painting, by William Holman Hunt, 1851.*



The painting is an image of Jesus preparing to knock on a large, overgrown door. The door symbolizes our hearts. When Hunt showed his work to a friend, the friend told him he'd made a mistake. There's no doorknob on the door! Hunt, however, replied that this was the point. Jesus wants to enter into our hearts and our lives but He won't force His way in. He could if He wanted to, but He chooses to let us make the decision. We're often afraid to open the door because of what the Lord might see inside. The fact is, He already knows what's in there. The ugliness, the sin, the pain, He's seen it all! There's nothing we can hide from Him, so we may as well let Him in. Jesus won't come fully into our lives unless we invite and welcome Him, which is why I love this painting so much. It's an invitation to open our hearts and allow the Lord in.

tinysaints.com



St. Bridget School HSA has teamed up with Tiny Saints® to host a contact-free, online fundraiser! Tiny Saints® sells colorful and vibrant Saint Charms, rosaries, plushies, board books and lanyards that are all themed around the Saints. From February 1st through February 28th, family and friends can shop from the comfort of home to support our school! Go to <https://www.tinysaints.com/?orgref=224C4F5F97FF> and 25% of your order will go directly to our school. It's that simple!

Let's give our children the gift of their Patron Saint on a backpack charm, to watch over them as they go through their school day! **Click here** to view almost 200 Saint Charms to find out whether your child's Patron Saint is available! Don't forget to **select St. Bridget School** from the dropdown menu.

Questions? Contact Julia Atwood at jatwood@stbridgetcheshire.org. Thank you for your support!



St. Bridget School

Prize-A-Day Raffle Calendar

Starting March 1st winners will be drawn each day of the month. Each raffle ticket will have a chance to win gift cards, prizes or cash EACH day!

There is NO limit on prizes won! **OVER \$2,600 WORTH OF PRIZES!!!**

MARCH 2021

\$20 per calendar/6 for \$100
All proceeds benefit St Bridget School H.S.A

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	\$200 CASH generously donated by Mystic Medical Associates	\$50 worth of wine generously donated by Votto Vines	90 minute massage generously donated by BodyCare Treatment Center	\$100 Gift card to Costco generously donated by Liberty Integrated Behavioral Health	\$25 Gift card to Amazon and Echo Dot	4 movie passes to Holiday Cinemas in Wallingford (value \$40) and \$25 Gift card to Heil's Donuts	1 Month Membership (3x a week) to Raise the Bar Performance Gym (value \$125)
2							
3							
4							
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7							
8	\$50 Gift card to Dino's Seafood	\$25 Gift card to World Wide Liquors and \$25 Gift card to Rose Vineyard and Winery	\$50 Gift card to Luce Restaurant	\$50 Gift card to Amici's Tavern	\$50 Gift card to Chameleon Salon and beauty care sampler	Polaroid Instant Camera with film (value over \$100) donated by Mrs. Ushchak	\$25 Gift card to Gouvela Vineyards and 3 bottles of wine
9							
10							
11							
12							
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14							
15	\$50 Gift card to Sarah's Pet Sitting	\$50 Gift card to Soga Sushi	Feeling Lucky? \$50 worth of scratch tickets donated by Mystic Medical Associates	\$150 Spa Finder Gift card generously donated by Dr. Bunick at Yale Dermatology	\$50 Gift card to Viron Rondo	4 movie passes to Cinemark North Haven (value \$74)	Chameleon Salon beauty care product goody bag and \$20 Gift card to Fresko's
16							
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22	Electric Toothbrush (value \$50) generously donated by Renee Kurtz Dental	\$50 Gift card to Lucibello's Italian Pasty Shop generously donated by the Faggio family	\$25 Gift card to Giovanni's and \$20 Gift card to Burger King	Assortment of painting art kits donated by Splat Art Studios and 1/2 dozen cupcakes to Sweet Mia's	1 month membership (4 30 minute lessons) to West Main Music Academy (value \$128)	\$25 Gift card to Bob's Sports Chalet and \$30 Gift card to Amazon	Belgium Waffle maker (value \$30), \$10 Chef's Bagels and \$50 gift card to Tops Supermarket
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29	\$50 Gift card to Main Street Caffe and \$25 Gift card to Verpucci's	2 Adventure Park Vouchers for 3 hours of fun (value \$124)	\$250 CASH generously donated by Blacks Road Self Storage				
30							
31							

BONUS - EVERY DAILY WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$5 GIFT CARD TO WENTWORTH'S ICE CREAM!!

Cut Here -----
 \$20/calendar or 6/\$100. Each entry eligible to win all month. Cash or Checks made out to St Bridget H.S.A. Please fill out information below and return with payment.
 Please return to St. Bridget School or Rectory office - Attn: Raffle Calendar

Name: _____
 Cell Number: _____
 Email: _____
ANY QUESTIONS - Please contact Molly Johnson at 203-915-4238 or molson1985@hotmail.com

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!

OVER \$2,600 WORTH OF PRIZES!!!



St. Bridget School Update

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

Enrollment Information for Prospective Families

Our Virtual Open House and Virtual School tour are now available on our website at www.stbridgetschool.org.

We also have in-person tours for prospective families who would like to see our students "in action." Please call us today to book yours!

We are currently accepting applications for all grade levels from Pre-K 3—Grade 8. Please visit our website to submit an application.

Thank you to the many parish families who have already completed their registration for next year. Parish support is essential to the success of our school. We are very grateful to all of you!

Excerpt from the SBS Gazette # 3

Behind the Collar by Nilan Kathir

Father Federico is our Parochial Vicar at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish and has had some incredible experiences on his journey to the Priesthood.

Fr. Federico became a priest after previously working at ESPN. Being a sports analyst didn't feel like something he wanted to do anymore and God called him to the Priesthood. Fr. Federico compared how he was able to realize that God wanted him to become a priest by using the fairy tale of Hansel and Gretel. In the story, Hansel and Gretel are led by pebbles. Similarly, God led him to become a priest by leaving pieces of joy for him to follow. After joining the priesthood, some of Fr. Federico's friends approached him differently. Because of different beliefs, some of his friends left.

Outside of being a priest, Fr. Federico has many hobbies such as lifting weights, reading science fiction, and eating delicious food. His favorite dessert is Rocky Road ice cream.

Fr. Federico is still a big sports fan. His favorite athlete of all time is Mariano Rivera and he currently enjoys watching Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Fr. Federico is an extraordinary priest and has many interesting life experiences. His journey of entering the Priesthood is very unique and inspirational. With his hobbies and interests, Fr. Federico has been a great member of the St. Bridget School family.

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

You Can Help Us Win GRANT MONEY



Voting has begun for the 12th Annual Community Awards Program so please help us earn grant money! We will receive a \$25 donation from the Ion Bank Foundation for every vote¹ we receive!

Every vote counts! If you are an Ion Bank customer, please visit IonBank.com to vote until March 31, 2021.

¹Voting is open to all Ion Bank customers. One vote per customer; however, for accounts with multiple owners, each owner may vote. Customers with multiple accounts may only vote once. Each customer can vote for only one organization.



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Religious Education Schedule

Grade 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
Virtual Family Meetings
Sunday, February 7th at 9 AM
Monday, February 8th at 4 PM and 5:30 PM
Tuesday, February 9th at 4 PM

First Communion Classes
In Person Class
Sunday, February 7th at 8:30 AM
Virtual Class
Sunday, February 21st at 8:30 AM

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

Confirmation Program
9th grade
Virtual Class
~~Sunday, February 7th at 5 PM~~
Sunday, February 21st at 5 PM

10th grade
In Person Class
~~Sunday, February 7th at 5 PM~~
Virtual Class
Sunday, February 21st at 5 PM

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Virtual Class
Tuesday, February 9th at 4PM
Tuesday, February 23rd at 4PM

Cancelled!

Cancelled!



“Ministry of Hope and Healing” Bereavement Support Group

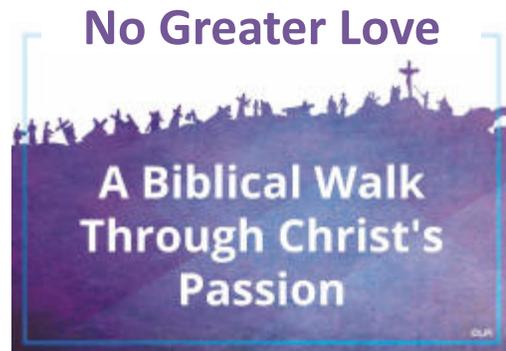
**A 9-week Bereavement Seminar will begin on
Thursday, March 4, 2021.**

The group will meet from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Saint Bridget School Library. The seminar provides hope, healing and support for participants while they adapt to their loss. The group is guided by trained facilitators as participants journey from grief to healing. It is based on the belief that sharing and talking about one’s thoughts, feelings and experiences in a safe situation with the support of others in similar situations is one of the most helpful ways to move beyond the pain that is caused by the death of a loved one.

Please note: Appropriate masking and social distancing will be followed.

Registration is necessary.

To register please call: Joan @ 203-271-2372 or Sr. Patricia @203-272-3531 Ext. 1312



No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ’s Passion

**Five Tuesdays from February 23 thru March 30
10 am to Noon in Father Frisbie Hall**

Have you ever wanted to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? This is your chance. Join us in this 5-part series. In this DVD series, scripture scholar Edward Sri takes us from Jesus’ Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, step by step through all of the events that led up to and including his crucifixion.

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This is wonderful way to make a Lenten journey. If you are interested, there is a book that accompanies this program.

To register, call or email Sr. Patricia at 203-272-3531 ext.1312 srcigrand@stbridgetcheshire.org.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FEBRUARY 15th



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by Carol Zimmermann, Catholic News Service

Grand Knight, Jason Moliterno —jason_molitierno@yahoo.com

A Virtual March, Yes. But More Than a Virtual Commitment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although the 2021 March for Life was far different from the previous 47 annual marches to protest the Supreme Court’s decision legalizing abortion, organizers and rally speakers stressed that the smaller, and primarily virtual, crowd delivered the very same message.

It was simply “more somber and prayerful,” said Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life Defense and Education Fund, in the livestreamed broadcast of a group of pro-life leaders making their way to the Supreme Court after the virtual rally.

“We are symbolically marching,” she said of the group representing those who would have marched in normal circumstances, adding that this was a “unique moment to build a culture of life.”



The usual in-person march that typically draws crowds by the busloads was already going to be scaled back as many groups canceled their plans to come to Washington during the pandemic.

On Jan. 15, organizers officially announced the event would primarily be virtual, saying that increased security pressures for law enforcement officers around the U.S. Capitol — since the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol and threats of subsequent violence by domestic terrorist groups — made it impossible to ensure security for march participants.

The message for participants, not muffled by coats, winter gear and crowds moving up and down to stay warm as in previous years, was a resounding cry to continue the fight for the unborn and to advocate for anti-abortion legislation.

Tim Tebow, a former professional football quarterback, told his story about how his mother, when she was pregnant with him, had been advised to have an abortion to save her life but she chose not to.



He urged virtual marchers to be willing to “suffer for and with the unborn.”

“We’ve got to do a better job of being all pro-life all the time,” he said. With a pep talk of sorts to the crowd, he added: “This is a hard fight and it might get even harder but stay in it.”

The rally and march, even in a different format, were not meant to be the end of any advocacy work.

As Mancini said in her closing remarks, the fight would continue in other marches to state capitols and in the work every day by people in the pro-life movement.



Ask Father

Dear Father: If the Baptism of the Lord ends the Christmas season, why is the following Sunday called the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time?

Dear friend in Christ,

Tough question! I never noticed this before so I did some research. Turns out there is no First Sunday in Ordinary Time, only a First Week in Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time always begins on the Monday following the Baptism. Since Sunday is the first day of the liturgical week, not the last, whatever Sunday would have been the “first Sunday” is technically part of the Christmas season, not Ordinary Time. So that first week of Ordinary Time only has six days in it and we pick up the normal weekly routine with the Second Sunday.

Mass for First Responders and Essential Personnel

Monday, February 8th

6:30pm

St. Bridget Church

Sign up online or join us on Facebook and Youtube!



www.stbridgetcheshire.org



Our U.S. Military Prayer List



Captain Cassandra Andrea USAF
 Captain J. Michael Andrea USAF
 SRA Garrett Barboza, USAF
 Major David B. Beale, US Army
 Specialist Alan Bell, US Army
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Betts, US Navy
 Lieutenant Kevin Briskin, US Army
 ENS Michelle Browning, US Navy
 Sergeant Brian Caouette
 Captain Leslie Ann Capuano, USMC
 Lieutenant Hollis Ann Capuano, US Navy
 Seaman Apprentice Robert Carrano, US Coast Guard
 Private Jack Cavanaugh, US Army
 Tech Sergeant Edward J. Clark, Jr, USAF
 SRA Aaron Desjardins, USAF
 Specialist John Fadus, US Army
 STS-1 Jake Ford, US Navy
 PFC Owen C. Fowler, USMC
 Lt. Colonel Mark Christopher Glenn, 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 2nd Class Neil P. Kenefick, US Navy
 Ryan Kiernan, US Navy
 AWO2 Kyle (DeVylder) Kohl, US Navy
 Lieutenant Jared Korn, US Coast Guard
 Sergeant Gregory J. Kowalski, USMC
 Airman First Class Benjamin M. LeClerc, USAF
 MA2 Tiana Lefebvre, 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
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 Private Matthew Planinshek, USMC
 LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy
 Private Quianna Rios, US Army
 Petty Officer First Class Matthew J. Sansone, US Navy
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 Lt. Ellie Marie Senft, US Army
 Captain Jack David Senft, US Army
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 Private 1st Class Kevin Stevens, US Army
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 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.

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

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- 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!

Women's Society SCHOLARSHIPS

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St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society is awarding two \$1,500.00 scholarships. Applicants must be parishioners of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish who are graduating from high school and are about to continue their education at institutions of higher learning.

The award is based on St. Bridget of Sweden Parish community service, a life that exemplifies Christian values, and an acceptable academic record. Application forms are available beginning February 4, 2021 on the website at

www.stbridgetcheshire.org/events,

at the Cheshire High School Guidance Office

or email Joan at jroczynski@yahoo.com.

Students must submit the completed application to the CHS guidance office or St Bridget of Sweden Parish Office by March 12, 2021.

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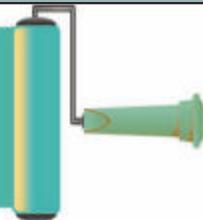
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