

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021



6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another." - Jn 15:16-17



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

Dear Friends in Christ:

First and foremost...on this Mother's Day Weekend I offer to all mothers, grandmothers, aunts, Godmothers, and to all who fill the role of mother in other people's lives a very **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!** Please know that each of you are in our prayers.



I know that for some in our parish this is a difficult day; some may be alone on this day away from their children due to the pandemic or some other issue, many others may be mourning the recent death of their mother or grandmother, and still others may be struggling with the reality of not being able to be a mother themselves. I assure all of you of our prayers as well.

This weekend each year I think of my own mother, of course, and I thank God for being blessed with such an extraordinary woman as my mother. She was and is always there for me and my brothers. Even in the past year as we dealt with a pandemic, Mom was there checking in on each of us, encouraging us, and making sure during the pandemic we knew she was there for us at any moment. Even a pandemic could not stop Mom from her nurturing and loving care for her children and grandchildren.

On this Mother's Day, I pray for my own mother, and I assure all of you of my prayers and those of Father Federico as well:

- To those who gave birth to or

adopted your first child this year—we celebrate with you.

- To those who lost a child this year, to those who experienced a miscarriage, to those who went through failed adoptions—we mourn with you.
- To those who struggle in the trenches each day with little ones and have the food stains to prove it—we appreciate you.
- To those who are foster moms, legal guardian moms, stepmothers, and godmothers—we need you.
- To those who lost their own mother or grandmother this year—we mourn with you.
- To those who will deal with an empty nest for the first time this year—we grieve and rejoice with you in this new phase of life.
- To those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—we are filled with joy with you.

How appropriate it is that in this month of May in which we honor the Blessed Mother Mary we also honor our own mothers, grandmothers, and all who love us in a motherly way by celebrating Mother's Day. With gratitude, let us offer a prayer of thanks to our Blessed Mother. Let us take a moment to thank her for her motherly care for each of us. Let us also take the time to say thanks to God for the gift of our own mothers, grandmothers, and motherly figures in our lives—both those living and those deceased—who helped us to become who we are today.



Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for their selfless love. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our love and gratitude. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Mary, the Mother of our Savior, and Mother of us all, pray for us. Happy Mother's Day!

This weekend we extend Happiest Congratulations to our Young People!

Congratulations to those in our parish family who made and will make their First Holy Communion over this weekend in four different celebrations...



...what a special day it is to witness our young people receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus for the first time! Our young people from Saint Bridget School and from our Religious Education Program have been well prepared by their teachers, catechists, and families, and now they come to the altar to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. These lambs are fed by Jesus the Good Shepherd and gathered into his loving embrace in a new way this weekend, and are now called to bear much fruit by sharing in the love of God with those around them in their own words and deeds. We pray for these fine young people, in a special way, that they may always follow the call of the Good Shepherd and walk as children of God. We also pray that they will stay close to Jesus and receive Him in the Eucharist on a regular basis. Happiest congratulations and know that your parish family loves you!

CHANGE...

we love that word don't we!?!?!?! Well as you know we have been preparing to do our pew restoration project for some time now, and the day has arrived!

THIS THURSDAY they will be coming to take **ALL** the pews in the main church to their factory in New York to begin work on them. Over the course of the next twelve weeks we will all need to adapt as we move along!



Over the course of the past months, our own parishioner David Riccio of Canning Liturgical Arts donated his time, energy, and expertise to helping us find

companies who do this type of work to come and offer us a proposal. After consultation with the Facilities and Grounds Committee, and with approval from the Parish Finance Council, I wrote the Archbishop seeking permission to sign a contract with Artech Church Interiors, Inc., out of Woodbury, CT, to complete the whole project.

Here is what is happening!

Refinishing of 102 Pews + 6 Frontal Screens--all hymnal racks, anchoring devices, kneeler hardware and other attachments are removed; pews are transported to the factory in New York State, stripped down to the bare wood, repaired as needed (many do need some repair work), and then stained and sealed before returning to the church. All the vinyl lettering of names will be catalogued properly and a new lettering will be applied to ensure the donor's memories continue.

At the same time that the pews are out of the church we are also restoring the Terrazzo floor. Using diamond blades along with water they will be grinding the floor to remove all scratches, wax, and surface stains; then all cracks and holes will be patched using an epoxy glue of the same color and then polished to look new.

Finally, we will also be replacing the kneeler pads. When discerning this project, members of the Facilities and Grounds Committee spoke up and said we should replace the kneeler pads as well. *Seeing I hardly ever kneel in the pews I am so grateful they spoke up and brought this*

need to our attention. So when the pews are brought back new pads will be placed on the kneelers along with a new fabric cover.

This whole project should take 12 WEEKS! So I am humbly asking for understanding and cooperation during these weeks!

What does this mean for all of us?

All Daily Masses beginning THIS THURSDAY 7PM (Ascension Thursday Mass) and going forward ALL MASSES Mondays through Fridays will be held at Saint Thomas Becket Church at the scheduled times.

All Weekend Masses from Saturday 9AM through Sunday afternoon will continue to be held in Saint Brigid Church. Please note that we will be putting chairs in the church where the pews will be missing for your use. If you are in these seats please feel free to be seated during the Eucharistic Prayer.



Regarding Funeral Masses, I am asking for flexibility and understanding in scheduling especially in the first two weeks of the project!

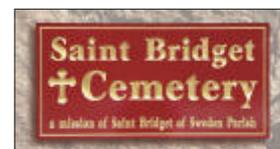
Regarding Wedding Masses, we have made arrangements for the first ten pews on both sides of the main church to be back in place before the next scheduled Wedding in June! Please say a prayer!

The funds for this project were made possible thanks to YOUR amazing generosity to the *Annual Family Commitment Program*. Thank you for your great generosity, which makes it possible to address the capital repairs of our parish facilities.

I join you in praying these weeks are painless and the project is completed on time! Thank you for your generosity, understanding, support, and prayers!

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS! As announced here and

in the Cheshire Herald back in March, we have updated the Rules and Regulations for St. Bridget Cemetery that go into effect on May 15th! It is our hope that with these updated Rules and Regulations in place, and a strict enforcement of these rules, we will maintain a beautiful, well-kept, comforting, and peaceful setting for visitors and family members who come to our parish cemetery for prayer and reflection. *Catholic cemeteries are meant to be holy places of prayer and remembrance, and that is our goal!* We believe these updated Rules and Regulations will help us to honor the custom of families and visitors to express their love and devotion for departed loved ones by decorating graves, while, at the same time, ensuring this is done without creating a safety hazard, impede proper maintenance, infringe on other gravesites, diminish the Catholic character of the cemetery, or offend others. **I ask you to ensure that your family plots are in conformity with these by**



May 15, 2021. Copies of the Rules & Regulations can be found online at www.stbridgetcheshire.org, at the cemetery in brochure format, and at the parish office. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping to ensure St. Bridget Cemetery remains a place of prayer and peace.

As always, remember to pray for our parish family and ask God's blessings upon us all in this time of pandemic. With the gracious intercession of Saint Brigid of Sweden, our Patroness, and Blessed Michael McGivney, and united in the Eucharist, may we be united with one another in prayer and reflect the presence of Jesus to the world! Please pray for me and know that I am praying for you! Continued prayers for you all to know and experience the joy, the peace, and the hope of the Risen Christ! A Blessed Easter Season to you and your family!

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



Join our
Online Faith Community

FOLLOW US

Get Updates | Grow in Faith
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 Saint Bridget of Sweden
Parish

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 @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, Senior Status
- Dr. Richard Wilber, Deacon
- Sister Patricia Cigrand, A.S.C.J., Pastoral Associate
- Mrs. Julia Atwood, Music Director
- Mrs. Donna Yatzko, 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 May 2nd**



**Thank you for your
generosity!**

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory\$13,592.00

Online

Offertory\$8,194.58

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

Give Online at
stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/

Archbishop’s Annual Appeal



Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2021 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please prayerfully consider supporting the many “Good Works” of the Archdiocese. Every gift will be gratefully received and sincerely appreciated.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.



Next week our special collection supports the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Archdiocese of Hartford to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, May 8th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Joe O'Reilly	The Haensel Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Barbara Pronovost—28th Anniversary	Her Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Joseph Ferry, Sr.	Ray & Pat Maratea

Sunday, May 9th: Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:00 a.m. SBC	Charles Gardinier	The Family
8:00 a.m. SBC	Cecilia Cavanaugh	Kathleen Huntley
9:00 a.m. SBC	Greg Schena—11th Anniversary	The Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Maria Montano & Theresa Manzelli	Ray & Linda Manzelli
12:00 p.m. SBC	Healing Mass for Veronica Doneski	Clare & Megan Bernard & Joan McMahon

Monday, May 10th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Bob Glazewski	Gail Glazewski
9:00 a.m. SBC	Richard Barone	Patricia Westrich

Tuesday, May 11th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, May 12th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Elizabeth Rittell	Paul & Corrine Camerato
9:00 a.m. SBC	John & Philomena Mongillo	Peter & Mary Mongillo
5:00 p.m. SBC	Phyllis Tarini & Josephine Fuoco	Vin & Sandra Fuoco

Thursday, May 13th: The Ascension of the Lord

7:00 a.m. SBC	Joe Ferry, Sr.	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Mary Ellen Wilf Mitchell	The Mitchell Family
7:00 p.m. STBC	Aaron Hunter	The Family

Friday, May 14th: Saint Matthias, Apostle

7:00 a.m. STBC	Luigi Pagliuso	The Family
9:00 a.m. STBC	Denise Matera	Madelyn, Mary Beth, & Victoria

Saturday, May 15th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Carol DeSantis	Joan & Tony Ginnetti
4:00 p.m. SBC	Rose Asprelli	The Banti Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Ernie Brandolini	Barbara & Family

Sunday, May 16th: Seventh Sunday of Easter

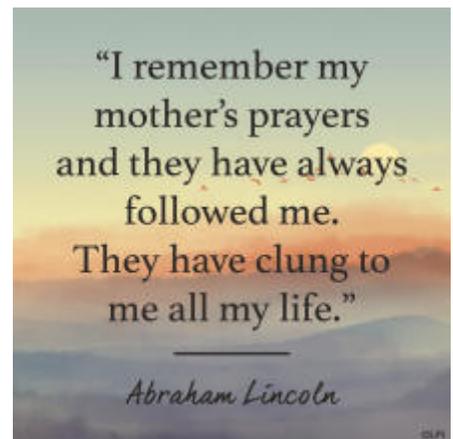
7:00 a.m. SBC	Martha Barchfeld	Rosalie & Bob Fountain
8:00 a.m. SBC	Brian Glifort	Anthony & Debra Federico
9:00 a.m. SBC	Aaron Hunter & Floyd Birdsall	Mom, Dad, & Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Carl Iaccorino	The Romania Family
12:00 p.m. SBC	Maria Ferrucci	Carmen & Tony Saracco

Welcome

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

Sean & Ana Charney
Pasquale Digliani
John & Anne Paine
Nathan & Erika Rzegocki



ASCENSION

of the Lord

Holy Day Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass
 Wednesday, May 12th
 5:00pm in St. Bridget Church

Ascension Day Masses
 Thursday, May 13th
 7:00am & 9:00am in St. Bridget Church
 7:00pm in St. Thomas Becket Church

To attend Mass, sign up at
bit.ly/SBoSMassSign-Up

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



Tabernacle candle at St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for Rita Hutchenson—In Living Prayer Requested by Catherine Carriero

In-Person Services THIS WEEK

Masses this week:

St. Bridget Church
 Monday—7am & 9am
 Tuesday—7am
 Wednesday—7am, 9am & 5pm
 Thursday—7am & 9am
 Saturday—9am, 4pm & 5:15pm
 Sunday—7am, 8am, 9am,
 10:30am, & 12pm

St. Thomas Becket Church
 Thursday—7pm
 Friday—7am & 9am

To attend Mass, sign up at
bit.ly/SBoSMassSign-Up



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

Mass in Your Car!

Tune in to FM 89.5 and listen to 10:30am Mass in your car in our parking lot! An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will bring Communion outside at the appropriate time in the Mass for you to leave your vehicle, receive Holy Communion, and return to your vehicle for the closing of Mass and final blessing.



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.

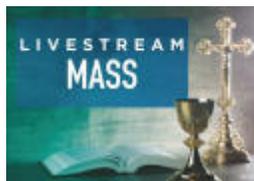
Adoration every Friday, 1-2pm in St. Bridget Church—sign up at bit.ly/Signup-Adoration



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)

ONLINE SERVICES This Week



Every Sunday our
 10:30am Mass is
 livestreamed.

Join Us!

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>



Getting to Know Our Heavenly Family

Every Monday at 10AM
 This week, learn about
St. Antony of the Desert



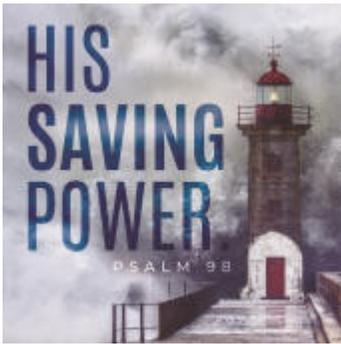
Resurrection Moments Video Series

Join us at 10AM every Wednesday and Friday during this Easter season for a look at where God was in our lives during the past year.

Adoration is livestreamed every Friday from 1-2pm



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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050921.cfm>

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

www.loyolapress.com

For more information to better understand the readings, bit.ly/3eQ73I5

Consecration to Saint Joseph

All are invited to begin the consecration to Saint Joseph. All you need is a desire for more of Saint Joseph's power in your life!

- ✠ A consecration is a nine-day formal act of entrustment **to** Jesus **through** Saint Joseph.
- ✠ It means we want Saint Joseph to take on an official role of helper, guardian, guide, defender and protector in our lives!
- ✠ **All you need to do is call the rectory and provide your email address.** If you don't have an email address, we can make other arrangements for you.
- ✠ From May 18th-May 26th, you will receive a daily email with the prayers of the consecration and a short reflection.
- ✠ If you want to go deeper into the power of the consecration, you can get the book that we will use: *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Don Calloway
- ✠ On the ninth day of the consecration, May 26th, you can come to a special evening Mass at St. Thomas Becket Church, within which the formal act of consecration will take place.



Glorious Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family, Defender of the Universal Church and Terror of Demons, pray for us who have recourse to you!



St. Bridget School Update

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



Congratulations to Us!

St. Bridget School won the **Best of Cheshire Contest** in the category of Best Private School!

Thank you to all of our voters and the Cheshire Herald for this distinction.



For the past two weeks, our Grade 3 through Grade 7 students have been taking their IOWA Assessments. This standardized testing was not administered last year due to the COVID-19 school closure, so we are very pleased to reinstate this valuable summative performance indicator.

As we typically score within the top **15% nationally**, we know our students were well-prepared and ready for the challenge! Thank you to Dr. Testa, Mrs. Geoffrey, and Miss Merriam for scheduling these assessments.

Classes are filling for 2021-22!

We are accepting 2021-2022 Applications for Grades PK-3 & PK-4 through Grade 8.

Visit our website for our Virtual Open House or call us to set up your in-person tour of our beautiful campus. All tours are one family at a time, offering you a safe way to visit and the privacy to ask whatever questions you may have.



Summer Camp Registration Forms

Now Available!

SBS is pleased to announce that we will have a **Summer Camp** for children entering PK-3 through Grade 3 from June 21st-August 6th. Weekly themes include, Ocean Discovery, Disney Time, The Zoo, Space Fun, Beach Time and much more!

In addition to our camp we will be offering two **Theatre Workshops** for students entering Grades 4 through 8 (the weeks of June 21st and June 28th) as well as two **Math Fun Workshops** (the weeks of July 12th and August 2nd).

The camp and workshops are available to all age/grade appropriate SBS students, their siblings as well as all parishioners.

For **Registration Forms** and more information, please contact Christina Cummings at ccummings@stbridgetschool.org.



Check out our Facebook page to learn more about our wonderful programs and activities at SBS.

Our Facebook pages are **St. Bridget School, Cheshire** and **St. Bridget School Cheshire Alumni Page**

Join our School Community

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Find Your Family at St. Bridget School

 St. Bridget School, Cheshire
 @st_bridget_school
 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

All classes have finished for the year. Please be sure your child completes all of their assignments.



Come and journey with us.

The process by which adults come into full communion with the Catholic Church is known as “The RCIA”, which is short for: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you feel God is calling you to this conversion of heart, please join us on this journey to a closer relationship with God and His Church. For more information, or if you have a friend or family member who might benefit, please contact:

Deacon Wilber at Dcnrw.stbridget@gmail.com or
Donna Yatcko at dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org

The St. Bridget School HSA Presents Two

Family Eat Out Nights

Monday, May 17th & Tuesday, May 18th

5pm-10pm

Viron Rondo Osteria



1721 Highland Ave, Cheshire
203-439-2727

Dine in or Take-out! Indoor and outdoor seating.
Reservations suggested.

The restaurant will donate a portion of all proceeds back to St. Bridget School HSA.

Enjoy a great meal and help our school!



Activities for this Week's Liturgy

Word Search—bit.ly/3b0KEqy

Crossword Puzzle—bit.ly/2QSTeAG

Decoder Puzzle—bit.ly/3tjAwz6

Coloring Page—bit.ly/3h0wN7f

NGD Cemetery Cleanup



New Saint Bridget Cemetery

Saturday, May 15th

2:00-1:00PM



PRAYER LINE

The St. Bridget of Sweden Prayer Line Ministry is available for all those in need of prayer and support. We also welcome anyone interested in becoming part of the Prayer Ministry. We know that life is hectic. You want to volunteer, but are not sure how. This ministry is something that you can do from your house, your office, or in the car. All we ask is that you pray with us to lift up the specific intentions submitted. Prayer requests and requests to join the ministry can be submitted online through our parish website or via email to: StBridgetPrayerLine@gmail.com.



Cheshire K of C KNIGHTS KORNER

by Harold Metz, Council Trustee

Grand Knight, Jason Moliterno —
jason_moliterno@yahoo.com

Say Kids, What Time is it? It's *Grab n' Go* Time!

Our last Grab n' Go was the biggest to date with over 350 happy parishioners enjoying a generous serving of veggie lasagna from Vespucci's. Our next one a week from Saturday may be our last before a summer respite, so don't miss out! This one features a secret recipe Pulled Pork Sandwich with sides of Mac and Cheese and Coleslaw!



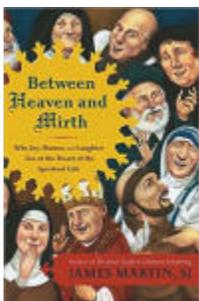
So, everybody needs to take a break from yard work and spring cleaning while the Cheshire Knights make your dinner. We hope this latest effort surpasses the \$1800.00 we netted to benefit the St Bridget School HSA and why not? You'll delight in our secret recipe pulled pork with all the fixin's including dessert! Order your Grab n' Go dinners here:

<https://cheshirekofc.org>

Once again we'll be offering free contactless delivery to those in quarantine or otherwise unable to drive.



Grand Knight Jason Moliterno presents a check to Dr. Nancy Testa on behalf of the St. Bridget School HSA



Book Study: "Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life."

Did you know that humor can play a key role in your spiritual growth? Popular saints like St. Theresa of Avila, Philip Neri, and Pope John XXIII had a good sense of humor. Pope Francis said, "You have never heard of a sad or gloomy-faced saint."

Join us for this entertaining and enlightening book study. It is even sprinkled with a few good jokes.

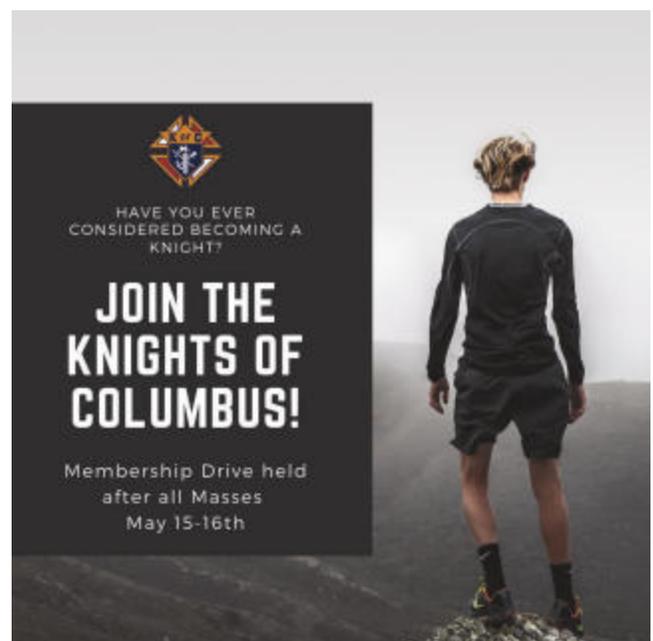
Dates: Three Tuesdays, May 18 to June 1 from 10:00am to 11:30am in Father Frisbie Hall

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



CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Having a diagnosis of cancer or being in remission can be a most difficult time in your life. We are offering a support group that we hope will be of help to you in the healing process. Sessions are held every Wednesday through May 26th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm in Father Frisbie Hall. We will be following Covid guidelines so masks must be worn and there will be social distancing. Sign up at bit.ly/3bY2Th1 to attend.



Apologetics 101:

The Priestly Vestments

Everything the priest wears has special significance, which has developed over the course of the centuries. Let's dive in!

- The **alb** goes on first. It is a long, white garment. It represents the white garment all of us were dressed in at our baptism and reminds the priest of the purity of life which he must strive for.
- Next, comes the **cincture**. It is a belt made of cords or rope. It represents the chastity and self-mastery to which the priest must be committed.
- Then the priest puts on the **stole**. **This is the most important of all the garments!** It represents the authority of the one High Priest, Jesus Christ. It is through this authority alone that the priest celebrates and administers the sacraments.
- Last comes the **chasuble**. This is the outer garment which corresponds to the color of the liturgical season. The word means "house" and it represents charity, the main virtue the priest should 'live in.'

PRAYERS DURING PRIESTLY VESTING AND THE MEANING OF VESTMENTS

As the priest prepares to dress himself in the sacred garments for Mass, it has been a long-standing tradition in the Church that he recites the following prayers:



Washing of hands
Give virtue to my hands, O Lord, that being cleansed from all stain I might serve you with purity of mind and body.

1 AMICE – a rectangular neck cloth which serves to protect the valuable chasuble and stole, but is used only if the alb does not cover the ordinary clothing at the neck.

Prayer
Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation upon my head, to repel the assaults of the devil.

2 ALB – a long white garment worn by the priest to represent the new and immaculate vestment that has been received through baptism.

Prayer
Cleanse me, O Lord, and purify my heart, that washed in the Blood of the Lamb I may attain everlasting joy.

3 CINCTURE – a cord used as a belt to tighten the alb symbolizing the virtue of chastity and continence, and is the same color as the chasuble.

Prayer
Gird me, O Lord, with the cincture of purity and quench in me the fire of concupiscence, that the virtue of continence and chastity may remain in me.

STOLE – a long narrow band, several inches wide and about 80 inches long (and of the same color as the chasuble) which is worn as a sign that the priest is serving in his official liturgical role.

Prayer
Return to me, O Lord, the stole of immortality, which I have lost in the sin of my first parent; and although I, unworthy, approach Thy sacred mystery, grant to me, nevertheless, everlasting joy.

CHASUBLE – the final vestment of the priest that is worn over all the others and symbolizes the virtue of charity and the yoke of unselfish love.

Prayer
O Lord, who hast said, My yoke is easy and My burden light; grant that I may be able so to bear it, that I may obtain Thy grace. Amen.

Illustration by Nathan Reads

Ask Father

Dear Father: In the Confiteor, which I am fond of because it sums everything up so well, it goes "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." Does this phrasing 'most grievous' have a special meaning?

Dear friend in Christ,

You know I love to share the hidden, symbolic meanings of the rich history of our Catholic faith. You know I would love to explain a new detail of the *Confiteor* which would make our heads spin! I would if I could, but in this case, I can't.

That phrase in the *Confiteor* means exactly what it says. By the way, for those who might not be aware, the *Confiteor* is the prayer we sometimes pray in the very beginning of Mass which begins "I confess, to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters..."

We confess all our faults and failings, out loud, to each other. We take personal responsibility for our actions. And we acknowledge that sometimes the sins we confess are more serious than others. This is what we mean by "my most grievous fault."

My name is Pauline Hillson. I was born in the U.K. and baptized in the Church of England. After I moved to America as a young girl, we would attend Catholic churches on occasion.

Shortly after September 11, 2001, I was feeling very lost and afraid. I started visiting different churches on Sundays. I knew I was looking for something, but didn't know what it was until I walked into St. Dominic Church in Southington. After a few Sundays, I knew I had found what I was looking for. I joined the RCIA program and had a wonderful journey learning about religion, faith and what it means to be a Catholic.

My relationship with God has grown and flourished over these last 18 years. I love going to church and attending Mass. I feel that it lifts me up and sustains me for the coming week. It is a time for complete devotion without distraction. Most of my life I had felt alone and struggled by myself to face life's difficulties and challenges. Now I know I am never alone and can give all my troubles to God.

I could spend all day in thanksgiving for all the wonderful ways He has blessed me. In prayers answered and unanswered. For me, every day waking up is a new opportunity to be a better person than the day before. To be a step closer to the person He knows I can be.

Since I have lost my job, I have been able to attend Mass on Sunday at St. Bridget. Even though the Mass has changed with Covid, and the congregation is smaller, I felt very comfortable from the first Sunday. I have recently become a parishioner and am very excited about it.

At St. Dominic's, I volunteered with RCIA, greeting, reading, cleaning the church, and was asked to join the choir, which I declined. I would love to give my time and talents at St. Bridget wherever they may be of use.

During the pandemic, prayer is even more essential. I know the good Lord is going to see us through this. I was praying that the shutdown and quarantine would be a time for us to reflect on what's really important in life and help us love and appreciate each other just as human beings. Unfortunately, things have actually gotten worse and we are more divided than ever. I believe we need to bring God back into our daily lives. It should start with the family, then schools, work, sports, etc. Everyone wants to be politically correct; they don't want to be known as the "religious person." It's a shame. I proclaim my faith to everyone; not in a "shoving it down your throat" kind of way, but there's no doubt that anyone who knows me knows I love God totally, and I don't think it's cost me any relationships. You just have to put it out there for people to see.

I am so pleased to be attending St. Bridget of Sweden Parish. I look forward to meeting new friends and volunteering in whatever capacity I can. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story of faith.

-Pauline Hillson

Submit your Story of Faith at office@stbridgetcheshire.org



Youth Ministry

Regis O'Neill, Youth Minister roneill@stbridgetcheshire.org
203-233-848

Upcoming Events

1. All high schoolers **and eighth graders** are invited to join the Next Generation of Disciples for our next Faith in Film movie night this Wednesday, May 12th, from 6:30-8:30pm in the SBS gym! Pizza and drinks will be provided as we relax with a great movie and discuss some of its themes. We look forward to seeing you there!
2. We will be helping to clean up the New Saint Bridget Cemetery on Saturday, May 15th from 2-4pm. All eighth graders and high school students (and their families) are invited to join us in helping to keep this a clean and reverent space for all who visit! Contact Regis to let us know you'll be joining us!

Verse of the Week

Ephesians 1:7

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."

Saint of the Week

Saint Matthias

Feast Day: May 14th

Bio: Matthias' only mention is in the Acts of the Apostles. We know next to nothing about him aside from the fact that he was given the unenviable task of succeeding Judas as one of the Twelve Disciples after the Ascension. Peter recommended that they choose someone who had been a follower of Christ from the very beginning ("beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us"), and two men were nominated: Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas. Instead of voting or debating, the Apostles prayed for guidance from the Holy Spirit and drew lots. Matthias' name was chosen, and he became one of the Twelve. That's all we know about him! Still, there must have been some reason he was chosen by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for the humility and courage to accept great responsibility as Matthias did. Saint Matthias, pray for us!





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
 Sergeant 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
 Captain 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
 Sergeant Alexander Poling, US Army Natl. Guard
 LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy
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 Petty Officer First Class Matthew J. Sansone, US Navy
 Lt. Ellie Marie Senft, US Army
 Captain Jack David Senft, US Army
 SRA Myron Simpson, USAF
 Private 1st Class Kevin Stevens, US Army
 Captain Alexander James Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Matthew Neil Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Ryan Van Wie, US Army
 Private 1st Class Connor Valinsky, US Army
 Senior Airman Joe Villano USAF
 Corporal Bernard Vitti, Jr., USMC
 LCpl. Matthew Voelker, USMC
 Airman Mark Zajac, Jr., USAF

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

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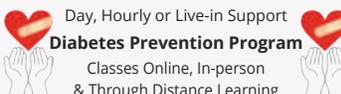
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