



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

**22nd SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.” - Mk 7:15



Letter from the Pastor

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS

What is that I hear? This past week brought sounds familiar to the human ear and which signal a new start. As the week began it did so as any other summer week, except at about mid-morning I looked out the window of the rectory and saw many more cars than typical at that time during the summer months. So, curious, I made my way down to our parish school to ascertain what was happening. It was then that I heard those sounds...



What sounds? Some laughter, some chatting, some tears. The teachers were back from their summer break and preparing their classrooms for another school year, and it was a time for catching up and filling each other in on what happened in their lives these past couple of months; hence there was joy and there were tears. But how I loved hearing those sounds.

Those sounds signal to me a new school year. A new start. A new beginning.

But then I wondered...what happened...how could summer be over already? I haven't finished the books I wanted to read, I haven't golfed as much as I had hoped, and I certainly didn't feel like summer was near done. But the old saying is so true: Tempus Fugit...(Time Flies)...I feel like we were just ending the school year, and already the children will be back in their classrooms this week. It seems life is indeed getting back to a regular schedule for the vast majority of us. Notice I did not

say "normal," as what is normal anymore?

After last year, and all the stress associated with the return to school in what we thought was a near-ending pandemic, I never thought this year we would be witnessing such stress surrounding the return to school...it is almost worse this year. Just look at social media. Look at town meetings. People are stressed. Here are some headlines that reveal this stress:

One year later, a new wave of pandemic health concerns

US Adults report highest stress level since early days of pandemic

COVID's mental-health toll: how scientists are tracking a surge in depression

Feeling Stressed? Ways to Improve Your Well-Being

As we continue to weather our way through this pandemic, and deal with the virus variants that are coming our way, let us all take a moment and TAKE A DEEP BREATH. This can all be overwhelming. This can certainly add stress to our lives. But step back, take a breath, and ask God to send His comfort and peace into our lives.

I look forward to welcoming our students back, and I pray that all will be kept safe and our students will be formed in mind, body, and spirit. The new school year brings excitement on so many levels...different teachers, new classmates, new textbooks, and all sorts of new experiences await our young people.

Our parish school is ready and willing to assist EVERYONE in educating your child(ren). Since opening in 1994, Saint Bridget School offers students a faith-based, challenging curriculum designed to promote academic excellence in pre-kindergarten, kinder-

garten, and grades 1 through 8. Committed educators guide our students through the day with lessons in faith development, math, language arts, social studies, geography, science, Spanish, music, art, and physical education.



We are charged with exceeding national standards and so we continue to implement curriculum that provides a challenging course, grounded in basic skills necessary for students to develop foundational skills that lead to higher, more complex thinking skills, rooted in Gospel values, and integrating Catholic social teaching across all disciplines, ensuring the development of the whole child. Students graduating from St. Bridget School exceed state and national benchmarks, evidenced by our exemplary standardized test scores and high performance on high school placement exams. Most importantly, we truly educate the whole child: academically, socially, and *spiritually*.

What will you find in St. Bridget School for your child or children?

- Faith Based Learning with a Real World Approach
- Spanish Language from PreK3 to Grade 8
- Advanced Studies and Curriculum Resources
- 1 to 1 Chromebooks in the Middle School and iPad and Chromebooks in all other grades
- Athletic Fields and a Gymnasium
- Sports Program including Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Cross-Country, Cheerleading, and Soccer
- **Air-Conditioning throughout our facility—this enables us to bring in the outside air as mandated by the Guidelines from the Department of Education**
- Extra-curricular activities such as Robotics Club, LEGO Club, Chess Club, French Club & more

- A Diverse Student Body
- **Small Class Sizes with Differentiated Learning at ALL Grade Levels—enabling the proper distancing between students as mandated by the Guidelines from the Department of Education**
- Enrichment Programs and Family Events
- Tuition Assistance
- Weekly Mass as a school family and Adoration



Do you know how much tuition is for Saint Bridget School? I have heard from people out and about town that they could never afford tuition for our parish school. That may be the case, but we do have some scholarship monies available as well that may make it more affordable for your family situation. **I want to dispel the MYTH that is out there that tuition is around \$10,000 a year.**

HERE ARE THE REAL NUMBERS...Tuition for one child in grades K-8 at St. Bridget School is \$5,363; and our Pre-K program for five full days is \$6,391, for five half days is \$4,893, for three full days is \$5,590, and for three half days is \$4,289. Those families who are registered and active in our parish receive an immediate \$500 deduction.

As I said above, we are blessed to have some scholarship monies available to help families to be able to afford a Catholic school education for their child or children. This is in large part thanks to our devoted parishioners who contribute to our scholarship fund! This fund enables us to help families keep their children in a Catholic school even when family issues may arise that prohibit them from being able to afford the whole tuition rate. I cannot tell you how thankful these families are that this fund exists to help them in their

time of need. *If anyone from our parish family would like to assist us in maintaining this fund, please feel free to contact me at any time.*

We still have room at MOST grade levels for the upcoming school year 2021-2022, and I hope you will consider St. Bridget School for your child(ren) or grandchild(ren). I would love for all families to consider coming in for a tour. Please contact our Admissions Director, Mrs. Christina Cummings, or our Principal, Dr. Nancy Testa, at the school office at 203.272.5860.

As we are excited to welcome our students back to our parish school, so we are preparing to welcome our students back to our religious education program! We have been planning for this for many months and look forward to a great year of our young people growing in relationship with Jesus Christ and their own knowledge of the faith.

BUT WE NEED HELP! We need Catechists to help in this important ministry of our parish family. If you are interested, please consider this my personal invitation to you! Come help us teach our young people about Jesus Christ, His love for us, and the teachings of our faith.



Recruiting catechists is one of the most difficult challenges that parish leaders face, not only here, but in every parish throughout the world! While the invitation to become a catechist can be flattering, we also have to acknowledge that it can be intimidating. When one is asked to be a catechist, after the blank stare and some time for consideration, there is often the doubt that comes: “am I qualified?” I am asking everyone who loves God, has a relationship with Jesus Christ, and loves working with children to consider becoming a catechist.

Do not let fear hold you back from this amazing opportunity. We are here to assist you in preparing to take on this new ministry. Being a new catechist is a time of learning the techniques and becoming comfortable sharing your faith! Training, materials, and support are provided.

At Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish, we are blessed with so many who have accepted this responsibility. More often than not, after a few months, a new catechist will say something like “I am getting so much out of teaching the faith,” or “I am learning more about the faith that I thought I already knew.”

If you are considering the call to serve as a catechist, we hope you call Donna Yatcko or speak with Father Federico or myself after Mass about the possibilities. If someone you know is considering the call to serve as a catechist, encourage them to contact us as well.

So much of our life as a parish family and our school family is scheduled according to the School Year Calendar. Many programs and events start up at this time of year and that brings with it excitement as well. I know that we as a Pastoral Staff have been working very hard preparing for our fall programs, and there will be many! I hope you will consider joining us for the many educational, spiritual, and social activities and events we are planning. A full list will be provided in the near future.

We are ramping up with preparations for our Religious Education Program, as well as our Bible Studies, our RCIA Program, a Study on the Life of Saint Joseph, and other adult educational programs. We have other social events being planned such as our Parish Picnic (September 19), an Oktoberfest (October 15), and our No-Turkey Thanksgiving Dinner (in November). And there is more to come! We have a wide variety of other meetings, activities, and events being planned by the many ministries, organizations, and groups in our parish family!

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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
Online Faith Community

FOLLOW US

Get Updates | Grow in Faith
Experience Fellowship

 @stbridgetofswedenparish

 Saint Bridget of Sweden
Parish

 @sboscheshire

 @sboscheshire

 www.cheshirecatholic.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 Mary Rose Irvine, 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

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Remember you can always check out upcoming events on our Parish Calendar...The Parish Calendar can be found on our website



www.cheshirecatholic.org, and it will list each and every activity taking place at Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish and School. It is our hope that this calendar will be a tool to assist you in finding ways to get more involved in the life of our parish as together we grow in our knowledge and love of God. **You can also click on the box “Click here for Event Details” to learn more about upcoming events happening in our parish family.**

Final thoughts on a new school year...it is indeed a time for new beginnings as together we grow in our faith! Possibilities lie on the horizon as we are brought into contact with various people and open ourselves to diverse experiences. It is my hope for all of us that, whatever our role, the next several weeks will revitalize our hearts and spirits as we grow as a family of faith. As we begin this new school year in hope, in prayer, and in friendship, we ask God’s blessings upon us all as we seek to grow in our faith.

As always, remember to pray and ask God’s blessings upon our family of faith 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 united in the Eucharist, we will reflect the presence of Jesus to the world.

Father Romans



Our collection for the week of August 22nd

Mailed-in/Dropped Off

Offertory \$10,127.00

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

Online

Offertory \$7,036.00



Give Online at

stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/



MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, August 28th: Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:00 a.m. SBC	Ronald McReavy	Fran & Mike Bontatibus
4:00 p.m. SBC	Tristan Barhorst	Edward Mattei
5:15 p.m. SBC	Robert Connor, Jr.	

Sunday, August 29th: The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. SBC	Joseph Mazzacane	Wilma Buckman
8:00 a.m. SBC	Richard & Nina Eimers—1st Anniversary	Patty & Larry Richard
9:00 a.m. SBC	Walter Butch Hanover	His Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	John Rinaldi	Michelina Palladino

Monday, August 30th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Annina Gennusa—2nd Anniversary	Her Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Tristan Barhorst	St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Family

Tuesday, August 31st

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of St. Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, September 1st

7:00 a.m. SBC	John & Hannah O'Connor	Peter & Mary Mongillo
9:00 a.m. SBC	Rosalie Piller	

Thursday, September 2nd

7:00 a.m. SBC	Giuseppe & Pasqualina Tranquillo	Family
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Friday, September 3rd: Saint Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. SBC	Anna Bisignano	Lynn Krieg
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Sean Devine	Charlotte & Jerry Devine

Saturday, September 4th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Joe O'Reilly	The Haensel Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Russell DiMeo	Family
5:15 p.m. SBC	Manfred Storm	Robert & Cooky Fury

Sunday, September 5: The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. SBC	Bill Bradley—In Living Prayer	The Family
8:00 a.m. SBC	Kathleen Minore	The Romania Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Mary Calaluce	Jude DiGidio
10:30 a.m. SBC	Rebecca Jones	Kate Carriero



Marriage Banns

Please pray for this couple as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:

- I Robert Puszka & Mary Grace
- II Robert Morgan & Elaine Muldowney



Bingo is coming back!
See next week's bulletin for details.



DRIVE-THRU CONFESSION

Drive-thru **CONFESSIONS** available every **Saturday at 3:00pm** until heard and the **second Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm.**

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
Maureen O'Brien
Requested by the Haensel Family



The Tabernacle candle at St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for
Patricia Stanley—In Living Prayer
Requested by Kate Carriero

In-Person Services THIS WEEK

Masses this week:

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



Rosary every Monday at 1:30pm in St. Thomas Becket 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 and the **SECOND Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm**. Drive up to the St. Bridget School entrance and a priest will come out to hear your confession.

Adoration in St. Bridget Church every Friday, 1-2pm and on the second Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm



NOTE: Masking is required for non-vaccinated persons and strongly encouraged for fully vaccinated persons.

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 **Saint Jose Maria Escriva**

How Catholic Are You?

Join us at 10AM every Wednesday and Friday Test your knowledge of the Catholic faith with these obscure facts and partially useful trivia about our faith and its history.





Today is the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082921.cfm>

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark’s Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John’s report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark’s report of this event.

In today’s Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark’s community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus’ teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

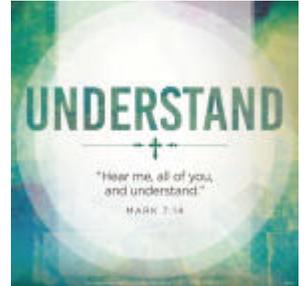
Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God’s Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees’ language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person’s life.

If we read today’s Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus’ teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus’ first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus’ words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today’s reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today’s Gospel are addressed to Jesus’ disciples. Mark’s narrative shows several audiences for Jesus’ teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus’ disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus’ words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus’ words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God’s Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God’s ways.

www.loyolapress.com



Sunday Reflection “True Disciples of Jesus” — bit.ly/3kr79Zh



Next meeting:

Wednesday

September 1st

6:30-8:30pm

SBS Gym

Faith in Film Movie Night!

Pizza Provided!

Saint of the Week: *Saint Jeanne Jugan*

Feast Day: August 30th

Bio: St. Jeanne Jugan was born in northern France in 1792, at the height of the French Revolution. Her father died at sea when she was three years old, and her single mother lost four of Jeanne’s seven siblings at young ages. Around age 15, Jeanne began work as a kitchen maid for a charitable family nearby. After 10 years of working there, she became a nurse at a hospital in Le Rosais. As far as spiritual life goes, she joined a third order group founded by St. John Eudes. She met a woman through the order with whom she often prayed, visited the poor, and catechized young children. After her friend died, Jeanne and two others continued living in this manner in Saint-Sevrans. They began an association, and soon began receiving more members and guests. Jeanne became known as Mother Marie of the Cross, and she founded six houses for the elderly by 1849. Her association became known as the Little Sisters of the Poor, and it had over 500 members by 1853. She died in 1879, mere months after her community received final approval from Pope Leo XIII. Saint Jeanne Jugan, pray for us!

Verse of the Week 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”



St. Bridget School Update

Principal: Dr. Nancy Testa
Assistant Principal: Ms. Liz Plasky

Limited Space in Some Grades!

St. Bridget School
Cheshire, CT

- PreK through 8th Grade
- 1:1 Technology
- Smartboards in all classrooms
- Amazing grounds including two playgrounds, soccer and baseball fields, and new Gaga Pit
- Fully air-conditioned

171 Main Street, Cheshire 203.272.5860 www.stbridgetschool.org

Check out our Facebook page *St. Bridget School, Cheshire* for up-to-date information and activities.

We also offer **Registered Catholic Grants, Sibling Grants, as well as Tuition Assistance.**

For more information or questions, please contact our Admissions Director, Mrs. Christina Cummings, at 203.272.5860, or email at ccummings@stbridgetschool.org.



Welcome to St. Bridget School!

Please join us in welcoming our new teachers to St. Bridget School - Katy Sibley, 7th grade Homeroom and Spanish teacher; Scott Iwaniec, 7th grade Homeroom and History teacher; Mrs. Traci Rhodes, 5th grade teacher; and Meaghan McLaughlin, 2nd grade teacher.

All of our teachers have completed their professional development this week and are ready to start the year! Each year, teachers are required to complete professional development on topics such as building security, health and safety, and much more.



SBS teachers are required to complete these professional development days prior to the start of the academic year to ensure compliance and best practices for our school.

St. Bridget Annual Appeal

The St. Bridget School Annual Appeal is underway and we thank the many parish and school families who have already given so generously. If you wish to contribute to our appeal, please contact the school at 203.272.5860.



Golf Tournament
Monday September 27th, 2021
Waterbury Country Club

All proceeds from this important fundraising event will benefit St. Bridget School.

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 Registration Info

Registration has begun for the 2021-2022 year.

Forms and payment information have been emailed to each family.

The link to the registration forms is:

bit.ly/SBoSRelEdRegister21-22

The link for online payment is:

bit.ly/SBoSRelEdPay21-22

If you have any questions, please contact the office at 203-272-6504 or dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org

CATECHISTS NEEDED!

Catechists help us support our students through our various programs. If you have any interest, please share your information on the registration form or email us at dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org.

The role requires a passion for sharing our faith with the children and compliance with the Safe Environment requirements (a brief online VIRTUS training session and background check).

Materials and support are provided.

VIRTUS REMINDER

Virtus Updates Needed—Training Available

The Office of Safe Environment has directed that any parishioner who submitted a background check before January 1, 2011 needs to submit a new background check in order to continue volunteering in the parish.

Please contact the Religious Education Office at 203-272-6504

Dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org

or

PTodman@stbridgetschool.org

so we can make arrangements for you to submit a new background check and receive the new Archdiocese of Hartford Policy and Codes of Ministerial Behavior booklet and acknowledgement page.

At the present time the Virtus Training can be done online. If you have not completed this training or are interested in attending a virtual training session, please contact Donna Yatcko.

If you are not sure if you are due for an updated Background Check, please call the Religious Education Office at 203-272-6504 to inquire.



There will be a Q & A session for any interested in the RCIA program on Monday, September 13th at 7 PM in the Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish Center. Please contact Donna Yatcko dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org or 203-272-6504 to register.

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



We will be offering Adult Confirmation classes for those adults who have received their First Eucharist but were never confirmed. Classes will begin September 21st at 6:45 PM. We will meet for 6 consecutive Tuesdays.

Confirmation will take place on November 9th at the Chapel at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield, CT.

For more information please contact:

Deacon Wilber at dcnrw.stbridget@gmail.com or

Donna Yatcko at dyatcko@stbridgetschool.org

The ABCs of Annulment

“The ABCs of Annulment” program will be held on Saturday, September 18th at 10 AM to Noon in the Church Hall of St Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Ave, Hartford.

The “ABCs of Annulment” event is open to all at no cost. Participants will receive a folder with the required printed materials. No registration is required. For further information, call Br. Larry @ 475-221-8464 or email him at brolarlus300@gmail.com.

Apologetics: The Hard Sayings of Jesus

This week we continue to look at some of the difficult and controversial sayings of Our Lord.

“The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.” – Matthew 11:12

- What’s going on here! It sounds like Jesus is saying that Heaven is being attacked.
- Plus, I thought Jesus didn’t advocate for violence!
- When I first read this, I imagined a group of bad guys encircling the Gates of Heaven like in an action movie, with the angels taking up their positions on the walls.
- As cool as that might be to imagine, that’s not what’s actually happening here.
- Remember, we must always read scripture in its context. Jesus has been talking about John the Baptist. In fact, the first half of this verse is “from the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force.”
- Before Jesus died on the Cross for us, Heaven was “shut down” and no one could get in because our sins had not been atoned for. Even the preaching of the Old Testament prophets could not open it up. It was, in a sense, like an impenetrable castle or fortress.
- After Jesus’ death and resurrection, Heaven became “open for business.”
- Jesus is saying in this verse that, beginning with the preaching of John the Baptist, now Heaven can be “overtaken” by anyone.
- Jesus is looking at the crowds following John and he compares them to an advancing army, surrounding the Kingdom of Heaven and eventually “capturing it.”
- The “violent men” are all the men and women who will accept Jesus as their savior and the “force” by which they will take the Kingdom are the acts of repentance, discipline, mortification and penance they will do to overcome themselves.
- Thus, the violence Jesus mentions is not directed out at anyone else, but rather deep within ourselves, at our pride and ego and selfishness.

DEADLINE EXTENDED!
Registration & payment due by 9/14
Contact Sr. Mary Rose to reserve
your spot!



**“Ministry of Hope and Healing”
Bereavement Support Group**

**A 9-week Bereavement Seminar will begin on
Thursday, September 9, 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.

Registration is necessary. To register please contact:

Joan @ 203-271-2372 or jroczynski@yahoo.com
or Sr. Mary Rose @ 203-272-3531 ext. 1312

FALL BUS TRIP TO LANCASTER

OCTOBER 19-20



**COME SEE "QUEEN ESTHER" AT
THE SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER!**

**Contact Sr. Mary Rose to register:
srmaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org
203-272-3531 ext. 1312**

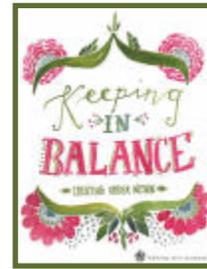


Job Opportunities at St. Bridget School

P.M. Extension Aide - Monday-Friday 2:00pm-5:30pm; Bi-weekly pay; Duties include: Report to Pre-K classroom to assist teacher from 2:00pm to 3:00pm; Report to Extension area at 3:00pm; Assist Extension Coordinator of the program as requested; Set out snacks for students; Work with small groups of students and individual students assisting in homework and projects; Monitor students when outside; Take younger students back and forth to the lavatory. Older students must get permission to go to the lavatory, monitor their return; Be attentive to the actions of the students in the area, their safety is paramount.

Extension Coordinator - Monday-Friday 1:45pm-5:30pm; Bi-weekly pay; Duties include: Set-up area at 1:45pm; Report to Pre-K classroom at 2:00pm to 3:00pm; Order supplies and snacks as needed for the program; Coordinate duties of PM aides; Keep emergency records of students updated; Record student's time-in and time-out for accurate billing; Give Time in/out sheets to Main Office for billing (weekly); Fill in at AM Extension if aide calls out sick; Be attentive to the actions of the students in the area; all students' safety is paramount.

For more information or to apply, contact:
Dr. Nancy Testa at DrTesta@stbridgetschool.org



Our next *Walking with Purpose*
Bible Study is
"Keeping In Balance"

This 22 week study begins
Tuesday, September 14th, at 6:30 pm
in Fr. Frisbie Hall

The book can be ordered from
<https://walkingwithpurpose.com>
For questions and to register, contact
Patti Flynn-Harris at
flynnharrispati@gmail.com

Ask Father

Dear Father: My teen son is giving me a hard time about going to Sunday Mass. He would like to attend a Mass with me during the week instead and feels like he gets much more out of it. I realize we have an obligation for Sunday Mass but I am also weighing not turning him off, etc., especially when I know his faith is a priority to him. Appreciate any guidance.

Dear friend in Christ,

Thanks for reaching out. So many families struggle with this. Here are some thoughts.

Affirm your son's desire to be at Mass. The fact that he wants to be at some Mass, whether weekend or weekday, is a good thing. It is much better to encourage the good than to lecture about the bad.

Sunday Mass is not optional, it is a commandment: "Keep holy the Sabbath."

Gently communicate to him that we don't go to Mass for what we get out of it but rather for what we put it into it. The Sabbath Mass is how we give thanks to God for our many blessings and give God the worship that he is owed. When we change our mindset from 'what's in it for me' to 'what more can I give', our experience of Mass changes and radical blessings follow.

Ask him if he knows Jesus personally. If we haven't yet had a real experience with the actual, living person of Jesus, Mass can be burdensome or boring. But if we have met Jesus personally, the Mass, specifically the moment of Holy Communion, becomes a real encounter with a real person.

Finally, as Christians, remind him that our relationship with Jesus is personal but not private. Jesus never invited people to a solitary association with him but rather to become part of something bigger than themselves. Jesus calls us into communion with one another. He invites us to be part of a family – his family. The Sunday (or Saturday vigil) Mass is the way this family comes together to celebrate our shared personal relationships with the Lord and feast on the banquet of the Word and the Eucharist.

Hope this helps.



Come check out the newest ministry in our Parish! If you are in your 20's through 50's, whether you are married, single, with or without kids, **i.d.9:16 invites you to join our community!**

i.d.9:16 exists to help men and women become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. As we meet together on a monthly basis, we will grow deeper in our faith and learn to live out our call to be followers of Christ. Join us at our monthly events coming up to find out more.

Community Mass and Fellowship with i.d.9:16 – Every 1st Sunday of the month, we will attend the 9am Mass together as a community. We will sit toward the front of the church on the right. Our first community Mass is **Sunday, September 5th**. Please join us for donuts and fellowship after Mass in the Parish Center.

Disciples Afternoon—Every 3rd Saturday from 2:30-4:30pm. Our first one is **Saturday, September 18th**. Join us for a talk, discussion, and fellowship at the Parish Center.

For more information, please send us an email to id916cheshire@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at one of our events soon!

**Come Enjoy our Bourbon & Wine Tasting!
Support the Women's Society Scholarship Fund!**

Saturday, September 11th
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Father Frisbie Hall



Litchfield Distributors and Votto Vines will provide select Bourbons and Wines to taste!

Lots of hors d'oeuvres to enjoy!!
Cost: \$20 per person by September 9th or \$25 at the door



Bourbon & Wine Tasting Pre-pay Order Form

Name (s): _____

Attending _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to "St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society"

Place form in an envelope marked SBSWS & put in church basket or return to the church office.



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jason_moliterno@yahoo.com

A Journey for Life

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



This year, as last, our parish is blessed to be included as an important stop along the route to Mexico and the site of the apparition of our Blessed Mother to the poor peasant, now Saint, Juan Diego in 1531. The Silver Rose coming to our parish will be here on October 17th, and our council and its Co-Chaplains Fr. Romans and Fr. Federico are making plans now for its arrival.



In the coming weeks, we'll have more information on plans for that day and will present the background of the Silver Rose phenomena and St. Juan Diego himself.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GROUP



**2ND FRIDAY OF
EACH MONTH**

PARISH CENTER

CONTACT LAUREN AND BLAIR AT
LAURENNOCE1031@GMAIL.COM AND
BDESTITO@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFO



Our U.S. Military Prayer List



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 Captain J. Michael Andrea USAF
 SRA Garrett Barboza, USAF
 2nd Lt. Darren Barile, US Army
 Major David B. Beale, US Army
 Specialist Alan Bell, US Army
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Betts, US Navy
 Captain 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. Iannucci, USN, Chaplain
 Technical Sergeant Michael Irvine, USAF
 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 Lefebre, US Navy
 Lieutenant Tyler McEvoy, US Army Natl. Guard

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
 PVT John Pastore, USMC
 Sergeant First Class T. J. Petersen, Army Natl. Guard
 Private Matthew Planinshek, USMC
 Sergeant Alexander Poling, US Army Natl. Guard
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 Private Quianna Rios, US Army
 Petty Officer First Class Matthew J. Sansone, US Navy
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 Captain Jack David Senft, US Army
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 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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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:

- canned tomatoes (whole, crushed, puree, paste)
- laundry pods -dishwashing liquid
- almond milk -juice boxes

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!

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Join your fellow parishioners
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 September 19th
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Many hands make light work!
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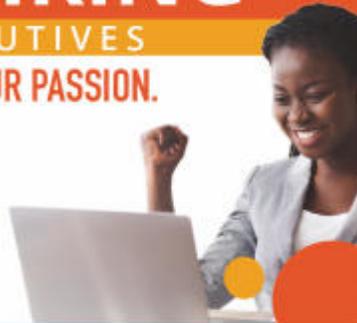
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