

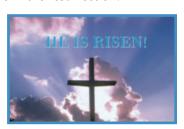
# From the Pastor's Desk



The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS Pastor St. Bridget of Sweden Parish

#### **Dear Friends in Christ:**

With great joy in my heart I announce to you: Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! These words are the traditional Easter greeting in the Western Church. It is called the Paschal Greeting which is ultimately based on Luke 24:34 where it says "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" How this passage became a standard greeting in the church is not known, though there are many theories regarding how it came into common usage. The words "He is risen!" remind us of the joyous news we celebrate at Easter, that Jesus' death was not in vain, and that He has the power to overcome death. Saying "He is risen!" allows us to share this incredible truth with each other! It is this fact which we celebrate today that gives us hope for salvation and for our own share in the resurrection!



This is such amazing news that we actually celebrate this reality for eight full days! Each day in this octave of Easter is an occasion to celebrate the most important event in human history! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO OUR EASTER MASSES. We welcome those of you who come to worship with us regularly; those of you who felt a tug on your heart to come back to the Church this Easter; those here visiting family and friends; and those who are coming back for the first time since the pandemic. We welcome you all!



We welcome in a special way those who are still searching for a spiritual home. We recognize that there may be some who are still searching for a place to belong where they feel welcomed and appreciated. If that is you, and you are here today, please know we welcome you in a special way and hope you find your home with us.

We hope and pray that all who are here with us this Easter will know that you are invited, welcomed, loved, and respected as part of our parish family! Our parish Vision Statement reminds us that we are a "spiritual home and a center of missionary outreach where all may come to be nourished in the midst of their journey. All who come are welcomed with warmth, harmony, and belonging and will know they are home." We truly want you to feel not only welcomed, but at home in our family of faith. We pray that you and your family will experience the joy of this wonderful Easter season as we proclaim with joy the good news echoed by followers of Christ throughout the world: Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

The Solemnity of Easter is the heart and center of our Catholic faith. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead fills us with joy; gives us hope; and takes our fears, our worries, our hurts, our sorrows...and puts them all into perspective.

This morning we come together to celebrate the most important event in human history: the resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth. This event, recorded in history, verified by eyewitnesses, confirmed by revelation and testified to by God Himself, is the one on which human destiny stands or His Resurrection from the dead means that death no longer has the last say on our lives. Yes, death is still tragic and it is painful when a loved one dies, but it is no longer final. Jesus found a way to come back from the dead, never to die again. He has found a way to defeat death FOREVER. But more than that, he has promised that what has happened to him will happen to each one of us! Like Jesus, we will die-what the New Testament Apostles writing after the resurrection of Jesus referred to as "sleep"—but we will also rise to a new life that does not end.

There can be no greater promise, no greater source of joy and indescribable pleasure than to know that death has been defeated. Set free from the fear of death, you and I can live lives in service to the God of our salvation by sharing this good news with others!

What we do as a Church on this Easter feast is to celebrate life: the life of the Risen Christ, the life of the newly baptized, and the renewal of life that has taken place hopefully within each of us as a result of our Lenten journey. With a focus on life, we also have a new found focus on hope for our future. The resurrection of Jesus reminds each and every one of us that death is not an end for us who believe!

The challenge for each of us is to face each day with the hope that Easter

gives. Each and every one of us face challenges, whether big or small, whether difficult to handle or not. And yet, the joy and hope we have in the Risen



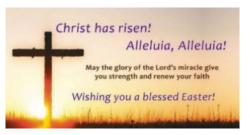
Lord allows us to face these challenges with a different focus. We do not face life with a dim and bleak outlook; rather, we face it with hope! For Easter gives us hope!

But you may say, "Father there is so much happening in the world that takes away the joy of Easter!" Of course we think of what is happening in Ukraine. Pope Francis recently condemned the war in Ukraine as "infantile and destructive aggression," the work of "some autocrat, sadly caught up in anachronistic claims of nationalist interests." While recognizing the evil aggression, the Holy Father also noted that ordinary people, on the other hand, "sense the need to build a future that will be either shared or will not be at all." The scriptures do not provide us words that would explain away the pain and death we are seeing daily: the deliberate killing of innocent, ordinary citizens, the over 4 million refugees fleeing to other countries, the hundreds of thousands remaining to defend their country. But the scriptures do give us the Son of God who came among us, suffered and died a horrific death, and then rose from the Jesus' death and resurrection remind us that the culmination of these days ahead is not the cross; it is the Resurrection! What we celebrate today reminds us vividly that beyond the pain there is hope: hope in Christ! The people of Ukraine have shown us what it means to hope. They have stood in the face of pain and death and showed the world even in the most difficult situation one can have hope. Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities of His time, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. And it is this same Jesus that is giving the people of Ukraine hope to fight against the aggression; for He alone gives them hope and He alone gives them strength to work for peace.

At the Great Vigil on Holy Saturday night we hear the Easter Proclamation, the Exsultet, which so beautifully describes the Resurrection of

Jesus. We hear "the sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty." Yes! But why? Because this is the night when Christ broke the prison bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld. This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin. And this is the night that leads us to grace and joins us to His holy ones.

That, my friends, is why the resurrection of Jesus gives us the greatest hope! That is why today Christians throughout the world say with great joy "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!"



This great news is in fact something we celebrate each and every week, not only on Easter Sunday, but every Sunday as we gather to celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ. In the early days of Christianity, Saint Augustine proclaimed, "we are Easter people and alleluia is our song!" We celebrate this each week as we come together to worship; to read and listen to Sacred Scripture; to pray for our brothers and sisters in need; to praise and thank God the Father in the midst of the Church; and ultimately as we offer the bread and wine each week which in His great love for us God changes into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Jesus which strengthens us to carry out our mission to "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

That is why every Sunday is so special and that is why when we gather as God's family we feel so blessed and renewed for our mission! As an Easter people let us be transformed into disciples ready to do all we can with the gifts God has blessed us with to *Go, and announce the Gospel of the Lord* in the world that so longs for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

NEXT weekend we celebrate, as we do every year on the Sunday following Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday. Pope John Paul II declared this Divine Mercy Sunday while he was Pope. This devotion is a popular devotion in the life of the church and perhaps it is part of your own regular prayers. This devotion was initiated through the writings of now Saint Faustina, a young Polish nun, who sought to remind others that God is merciful and forgiving and we too must show mercy and forgiveness. This is what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition, but her writings call us to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners. The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us - no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

We will have two special experiences on Divine Mercy Sunday.

First, we will welcome Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt, Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford, as the main celebrant of our 10:30AM Mass next Sunday. Bishop Betancourt was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Hartford on October 18, 2018.

Second, we will join together at 2PM for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which will conclude with the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. There will also be the opportunity for confessions during

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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



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#### The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS, Pastor The Reverend Piotr Buczek, Parochial Vicar

#### Pastoral Staff

Mr. Paul Iadarola, Deacon, Senior Status
Dr. Richard Wilber, Deacon, Senior Status
Sister Mary Rose Irvine, Pastoral Associate
Mrs. Julia Atwood, Music Director
Mrs. Donna Yatcko, 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. Carrie Brabant, Admin Assistant Mrs. Mary Beth Chamberlain, Admin Assistant Mr. Regis O'Neill, Admin Assistant for Communications Mr. Anthony Ginnetti, Sacristan

Rectory	203-272-3531
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Social Media	communications@cheshirecatholic.org
Mailing Address	175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

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this time. There is a Plenary Indulgence attached to the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for Divine Mercy Sunday which can be offered for another person or even someone who has died. A Plenary Indulgence is the cancellation of ALL temporal punishment that we owe to God due to our sins! To receive a Plenary



Indulgence, you must go to confession, receive holy Communion and pray for the intentions of the pope. That should be done in the days leading up to the feast. Then, on Divine Mercy Sunday, you must "in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy, or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus."

On behalf of myself, Father Piotr, Sister Mary Rose, our deacons, the pastoral staff, and all the parish staff, I want to wish you and your families a Blessed Easter. May this Easter Season be a time of great grace for you and those you love, and may you experience the presence of the Risen Christ in new and unexpected ways.

As always, remember to pray for vocations, pray for our young people, pray for our parish families and ask God's blessings as we strive to 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 Michael McGivney, and united in the Eucharist, we will reflect the presence of Jesus to the world. Please pray for me and know I am praying for you! Continued prayers for all to know and experience the joy, the peace, and the hope of the Risen Christ! A Happy and Blessed Easter to you and your family!

Tather Romans



# **MASS INTENTIONS**



Saturday, April 16th: Holy Saturday

**NO morning Mass** 

11:00 a.m. SBC Blessing of Food

NO 4pm or 5:15pm Masses

8:00 p.m. SBC Vigil Special Intention

Sunday, April 17th: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 a.m. SBC Special Intention 9:00 a.m. SBC Special Intention 10:00 a.m. STBC Special Intention 10:30 a.m. SBC Special Intention

Monday, April 18th

7:00 a.m. SBC David Olsen The Family

9:00 a.m. SBC Irene Hall—2nd Anniversary Virginia McCurdy

Tuesday, April 19th

7:00 a.m. SBC The People of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Wednesday, April 20th

7:00 a.m. SBC Rita Veiga Paul & Jill Veiga

9:00 a.m. SBC Lee Bailey His Family

Thursday, April 21st

7:00 a.m. SBC Doris Mormile Robert & Janice Marler

Friday, April 22nd

7:00 a.m. SBC John Harris Patti Flynn-Harris

9:00 a.m. SBC School Mass—Deceased The Family

Members of the D'Antonio

Family

Saturday, April 23rd

9:00 a.m. SBC Natale Marchetti, Jr. The Fuoco, LaBaire, &

Tarini Families

4:00 p.m. SBC Marco Tulio Albrecht The Albrecht Family

5:15 p.m. STBC Lee Bailey His Family

Sunday, April 24th: Divine Mercy Sunday

7:30 a.m. SBC John & Mary DiMugno The Family 9:00 a.m. SBC Daniel & Nancy Ginnetti The Family 10:30 a.m. SBC Francis H. O'Neill The Family 4:00 p.m. SBC Theodora Hamilton The Family



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

David & Marta Ambrose
Joseph Burgio
Nicholas & Elizabeth Gotsch
Krista Gugliotti
Karen Jones
Kevin & Karen King
Maureen Koskelowski
Irene Mach
Bryan & Cristina Meehan
Michael & Eloise Mongillo
Denis & Jill O'Reilly
Bryan & Alyssa Phillips
Stephen & Maria Proffitt
Michael & Felicia Soderlund
Vimary Parra & Daniel Torres





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

III James McGregor & Carol Saltzman

The Tabernacle candle at St. Bridget Church shines this week for James Stanley

Requested by Patty Richard



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

Irene Clouse Requested by Pat Dalton

# #In-Person Services THIS WEEK

#### Mass Schedule This Week:

Monday—7am & 9am—SBC
Tuesday—7am—SBC
Wednesday 7am & 9am—SBC
Thursday—7am—SBC
Friday—7am & 9am—SBC
Saturday—9am & 4pm—SBC
Saturday—5:15pm—STBC
Sunday—7:30am, 9am,
10:30am, & 4pm—SBC

CONFESSIONS in St. Bridget Church Saturdays at 3:00pm until heard 2nd Tuesday, 5-6pm

Rosary
Mondays 1:30pm—STBC

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.

#### Adoration

Fridays, 1-2pm & 2nd Tuesday, 5-6pm in SBC

SBC=St. Bridget
STBC=St. Thomas Becket

NOTE: Masks are required for ALL persons when inside church or other parish or school properties.



Online Services can be viewed on the homepage of our website at <a href="https://www.cheshirecatholic.org">www.cheshirecatholic.org</a>, on YouTube <a href="https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel">https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel</a> or Facebook @stbridgetofswedenparish

#### What & Why

Join Regis O'Neill and a new guest each week for 'What and Why,' a long-form show where we discuss WHAT the Church teaches on particular issues and WHY it's taught! Come and learn more about (and be able to defend) your Catholic faith! New episodes every Friday at 10am

Our 10:30am Mass is livestreamed every Sunday. Join Us!

#### Getting to Know Our Heavenly Family

Every Monday at 10AM
This week, learn about
Saint Conrad of Parzham

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

# JOIN THE



#### Top Ten Reasons to Join the Choir

- 10 To make it official! You already sing at Mass each week
- 9 To receive expert vocal training
- 8 To better understand the Church's liturgical year
- 7 To participate more deeply in the Mass
- 6 To (re-)connect with your parish community
- 5 To enjoy the beauty of music and to share it with others
- 4 To build friendships with like-minded individuals
- 3 To offer the commitment as a sacrifice to God
- 2 To reinvigorate your faith
- 1 To answer God's call to serve!

To join or for more information, contact Julia Atwood, Director of Music at 203-272-3531, ext 1409 or jatwood@cheshirecatholic.org

#### EASTER

IN THE DAYTIME, THE SUN IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD...





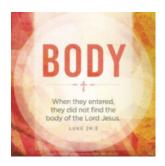


#### Today is the Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

The readings for today can be found at <a href="https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041722.cfm">https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041722.cfm</a>

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.



Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

www.loyolapress.com

#### Sunday Reflection "The Mission Did Not Fail!" — <a href="mailto:bit.ly/3xirQ1J">bit.ly/3xirQ1J</a>



Community Mass and Fellowship with i.d.9:16 – Every 1<sup>st</sup> 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 next community Mass will be Sunday, May 1st. Please join us for breakfast treats and fellowship after Mass in the St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center.

<u>Disciples Afternoon</u> – Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 1pm-3pm. Our next one is Saturday, April 23rd. Join us for discussion, adoration, and fellowship at the St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center. If you will need childcare, please provide the number of children and their ages using the Sign-Up Genius link: <u>bit.ly/id916childcare</u>

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

# Providence "Italian Style" Bus Trip Wednesday, May 25th \$170 per person

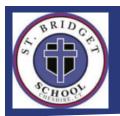


Head to Providence's Little Italy, where the day's activities will certainly make you feel as though the bus flew you across the ocean! Tour includes a behind-thescenes tour of Providence's Historic Federal Hill, three-course lunch at Cassarino's Restaurant, ride on the Venetian Gondola, and live music at the Riverwalk

Depart St. Bridget Church at 7:30am and return at 6:00pm. For more information and to make reservations, contact Sister Mary Rose at 203-272-3531 ext 1312. Make checks payable to *Tours of Distinction* 

"David" at the Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA October 17-18, 2022

For more information, contact Sister Mary Rose at 203-272-3531 ext 1312



# St. Bridget School **Update**

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



June 21th - August 5th





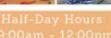












Pick one, two. or as many as

Our Enrichment Workshops for students entering Grades 4 through 8 include Cooking, Math Fun,

> Please call the school at 203.272.5860 for registration information.

#### Calling all SBS Graduates!

Please let us know what you are up to. If you would like to be featured in the school update, just give us a call or send us an email.

#### Accepting Applications for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

We have many parishioners enrolled at SBS and encourage prospective families to contact us if they would like to speak with enrolled students and their parents. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about our school, its curriculum and how our faith is woven into our community.

As a reminder, there is a \$500.00 Parish Grant for each student whose parent/guardian is registered and actively participating and supporting Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. Please call us at 203.272.5860 or email our Admissions Director, Mrs. Cummings, at ccummings@stbridgetschool.org for more information or to set up a tour.



Courtesy of Mrs. Timko and her Grade 2 students

#### Happy Easter from the Students, Faculty and Staff of St. Bridget School!





#### Our collection for the week of April 10th

<u>Collected</u>	
Offertory\$14,414.00	
Easter Flowers\$455.00	
Corporal Works (Prison)\$2,527.00	
<u>Online</u>	
Offertory\$9,950.50	



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Office of Religious Education
Donna Yatcko, DRE

dyatcko@cheshirecatholic.org 203.272.6504

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

#### **Religious Education Schedule**

Sunday Classes at St. Bridget School
Grades K through 6
8:30-9:45am
April 24th

Middle School (Grades 7 & 8) 8:30-11:00am

**April 24th** 

Confirmation Program (Year 1 & 2) 5:00-6:30pm April 24th

Monday Classes at St. Bridget School Grades 1 through 6 4:00pm-5:00pm 5:30pm-6:30pm April 25th

Tuesday Classes at St. Thomas Becket Campus

Grades 1 through 3 3:30-4:30pm

April 26th

Grades 4 through 6 4:45-5:45pm April 26th

#### FORMED in FAITH

Alleluia! He is Risen! We wish you all a Blessed Easter Sunday and Easter Season. We oftentimes get stuck on Easter Sunday, thinking of the Resurrected Jesus only when He emerges from the tomb and when He ascends into Heaven, but a lot happened in between! We believe that Jesus didn't ascend until 40 days after His Resurrection, and He was sure busy during that time. Read on to hear about some of Jesus' "Greatest Hits" post-resurrection.

We'll start off with an easy one — Doubting Thomas. Poor Saint Thomas! He's one of the Twelve Disciples, a brave and staunch defender of Jesus, but he's most remembered for the moment he doubted His Resurrection. Not fun! As you all know by now, the Apostles were gathered in the "upper room," when Jesus appeared to them. Unfortunately for Thomas, he wasn't with the rest of them when Jesus appeared!

Thomas did not believe the others when they told him of Jesus' visit (not exactly easy to believe that someone you saw crucified not long ago just came and had a chat with your friends). About a week later, Jesus came again, and this time Thomas was there. Thomas saw and immediately believed, saying "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We are called to that same belief! Like Thomas, we do not see Jesus in human form. But He comes to us in the Eucharist at each and every Mass, and He remains in the world in every human person. Let us believe, even though we do not see! Next up, let's chat about two followers of Jesus who were walking to a tiny village called Emmaus...

They were walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem, talking about Jesus' suffering and death. **Jesus then came and walked with them, but they didn't recognize Him.** He asked them to tell Him about what had happened, and they recounted the entire story for Him. They invited Him to join them for dinner in Emmaus, which He did.

At dinner, Jesus broke the bread in the same way He always did, and "their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight." How many times has Jesus walked among us without us recognizing Him? Perhaps He comes as the poor, the sick, or the homeless. Perhaps He comes in that person who frustrates us or pushes our buttons. No matter whom He comes to us as, let's be sure to show Him love, honor, and respect!

Finally, we have Peter's great swim. What is it with Peter and jumping out of boats? The Disciples were out fishing, not catching much. Jesus walked along the shore after they had been out there for a whole night, but they didn't recognize Him from afar. He shouted to them to cast their nets one more time, which they did...and the net was bursting with fish. This was the SAME miracle Jesus performed when He first called Peter to follow Him, and Peter knew in that moment that it was the Lord on the shore.

Peter immediately jumped out of the boat and swam to the shore, while the other disciples rowed back. This is the same reckless abandon with which we are to run to Jesus. Forsaking everything else, sometimes even risking physical harm. Jesus is our hope and our salvation, and we are to cling to Him with the same fervor that Peter did. We once again wish you a blessed Easter!



"Alleluia!" Christ is Risen! "Alleluia!" With these simple words we proclaim to all the world that death does not have the final word. With these simple words we proclaim our belief in the promise of Jesus Christ that everyone who lives and believes in Him will have eternal life.

Jesus came to deliver this message of hope. It is a message of his self-sacrificing love for us that even conquers death. It is a message that is received and welcomed by some, and rejected by others until the end of time.

Easter is a day of triumph, of great joy and hope, even though we continue to witness the horrific effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the tragedy being inflicted on so many innocent people of all ages, not to mention the many sorrows and sins that are still part of life in this world. But none of these things will ever have the last word. Easter is the definitive message that God has the last word that life will triumph over death, that sorrow and anguish will inevitably give way vindication and joy!

We possess an unshakeable hope because of Jesus Christ. During this Easter Season, as we celebrate the glory of His death and resurrection, let us remember that it offers us hope, and it gives us comfort. It is in response to divine love that we rejoice as brothers and sisters today, no longer scattered and divided by sin, but united as one Body in Christ. As together we renew our baptismal promises and receive the Holy Eucharist, we become living signs of the redemption of the world, as one Body we proclaim the Easter Gospel for the salvation of the world.

Today and every day people across our Archdiocese give of their time, talent and treasure to help others and bring them hope. This gift of self is evident within our Church and throughout the wider community. Thank you for all that you do to build up God's Kingdom.

As we celebrate Easter you are in my prayers, and I ask God's choicest blessings upon you and your loved ones. He is Risen, Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ deanew P. Blair

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair Archbishop of Hartford





## Cheshire K of C KNIGHTS KORNER

Grand Knight, Jason Molitierno jason molitierno@yahoo.com



From the Cheshire Knights of Columbus to All of Our Fellow Parishioners



Jason Molitierno, Grand Knight Robert Shemo, Deputy Grand Knight David DeLancy, Treasurer Michael Mongelluzzo, Financial Secy. Michael Wysoczanski, Recorder Joseph Gracie, Outside Guard Roger Crochietiere, Inside Guard Richard Renehan, Advocate George Moreland, Warden Charles Farley, Chancellor Trustees:

Mark Calabro / Raymond Smialek / Robert Roczynski







#### **Team Serenity** Virtual Support Group for **Caregivers of Children with Autism**

Monthly via Zoom every 3rd Wednesday Next meeting: 4/20/22 6:00-7:00 pm

Register with Sister Mary Rose at 203-272-3531 or srmaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org



High School Youth Group



Next meeting: Wednesday April 13th 6:30-8:30pm SBS Gym Lent

#### Saint of the Week: Saint Conrad of Parzham

Bio: Saint Conrad of Parzhham was born in (you guessed it) Parzham, Bavaria in 1818. As a young man, he loved solitary prayer and was known for being a peacemaker. He joined the Capuchin Franciscans in 1852 and was assigned to a friary in Altoetting. He became the porter (doorman) for the friary, a busy job due to the popular Marian shrine nearby. Conrad dealt with many people through his work, treating them all with kindness and courtesy. He was described as "unnervingly helpful," even going so far as to track down a priest working on his homily in the church belltower, because someone wanted to have their confession heard by him. Conrad also had a charism for the young people of the area, helping and promoting the welfare of many neglected children. He often spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Blessed Mother to intercede for him and his long list of intentions. He died in 1894 and was canonized in 1934. Saint Conrad of Parzham, pray for us!

#### Verse of the Week John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."



Into the Breach Men's Group

Join us Saturday mornings April 2 thru June 25
in the St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

THE MINISTRY OF

## THE WILD GOGE

Coffee and continental breakfast at 7:00am followed by a video and small group discussion.

Done by 8:45am

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is having weekend retreats this year! The theme for the retreats is "In the Spirit of Trust". The retreat theme will explore the notion of trust and how it is gained, as well as lost. Personal faith experiences of



trusting in God's providence will be shared to help one another build a foundation for lasting trust in the one who created us and loves us.

Holy Family lists May 13-15, 2022 as a weekend where groups from St. Bridget of Sweden Parish will attend, but you can attend any of the Men's Themed Retreat weekends. Visit <a href="holyfamilyretreat.org">holyfamilyretreat.org</a> for more info and to register or call Holy Family at (860)760-9705. Please note that proof of vaccination status and mask use will be required for the retreat. The retreat begins with dinner on Friday evening (6 – 7:30pm) and concludes with Sunday Mass at 10:45am followed by brunch (families welcome for Mass and brunch, no charge).

If you have any questions, please contact us: Jim Kirby (james.kirby@quinnipiac.edu), Russ Duffy (203-272-9912) or Bob Larkin (203-272-6301). Financial assistance is available.

#### Ask Father

Dear Father: Why is Easter celebrated as a joyous holiday for Christians?

Dear friend in Christ.

Easter is celebrated by Christians as a joyous holiday because it represents the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament and the revelation of God's salvific plan for all of humankind. In commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter also celebrates the defeat of death and the hope of salvation.

Celebrating Easter is about rejoicing in the risen Christ. In the days leading up to Easter, we recount His horrific death on the cross. It is a death Jesus died willingly (Mark 10:45; John 10:18). He came to earth as a baby in order to live a perfect human life and one day die as the sacrifice for sin. At Easter time, generally on Good Friday, we remember His sacrifice and thank Him for it.

But it is not only Jesus' death on the cross that is important. Jesus' resurrection proclaims His victory over sin and death. Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. Then He rose back to life, proving He is who He says He is and that He accomplished what He came to earth to accomplish. Jesus Christ is fully God, fully human, and our only Savior. It is because He is risen that we can trust in His sacrifice for our sins and receive new life in Him. His resurrection also demonstrates that His promise to resurrect us one day will come true.

Easter is the time to celebrate Jesus' victory and to celebrate the new life He gives. All can have their sins forgiven and experience new life in Him if they will receive Him in faith. It is fitting that Easter occurs in the springtime. Much like spring is the time when new life grows after the death brought about by winter, so Jesus brings new life to those who were formerly dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1–10). The life Jesus brings is eternal. We celebrate the reality of His death and resurrection every day, and especially at Easter. We can trust Him and worship Him all year through because He is risen!

Best, Fr. Peter







#### **Our U.S. Military Prayer List**







Captain Cassandra Andrea USAF 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** 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 Lance Corporal Peter D. Earley, USMC 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 Technical Sergeant Michael Irvine, USAF SRA Ryan Jones, USAF Lt. Colonel John Kanuch, USAF Major Leslie Ann Kanuch, USMC Petty Officer 2nd Class Neil P. Kenefick, US Navy Ryan Kiernan, US Navy

2nd Lt. Michael Marotta, USMC 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 LT 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 LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy Private Quianna Rios, US Army 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 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** Staff Sergeant Joseph 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 <a href="mailto:office@stbridgetcheshire.org">office@stbridgetcheshire.org</a> 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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MA2 Tiana Lefebre, US Navy

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- Cannot use large industrial canned goods
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Thank you for your continued support of the Cheshire Community Food Pantry and for helping our fellow neighbors!

# THURSDAY EVENINGS St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center Doors open at 5:30 p.m. BINGO begins at 7 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, call Kathy Mahmood at 203-592-7677.

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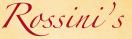
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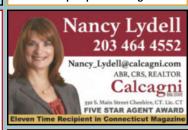
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