

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

3rd

SUNDAY OF EASTER

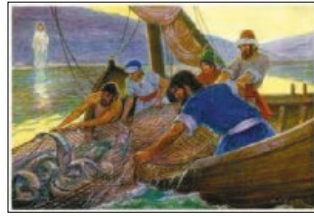
[Jesus] said to him, "Follow me."
- Jn 21:19b

From the Pastor's Desk

©LPi



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



Dear Friends in Christ:

As we continue to bask in the glory of Easter, in today's Gospel we have a beautiful image of the Church: The disciples, led by Peter, in a small fishing boat. At the Lord's command they lower the nets and bring in a huge catch - one hundred and fifty-three large fish. The number obviously has significance - and can tell us something about the Church. Early Christian writers said that the number implies that the Lord wants to include all people in his Church. St. Jerome (who was arguably the greatest Scripture scholar in the early Church) noted that zoologists of that time identified 153 species of fish. The number, 153, indicates that the Lord wants us to bring people of every nation, language and ethnic group into the Church.



Jesus means his Church to be "Catholic," that is, universal. Jesus has something for every human being. He alone can satisfy the deepest longing of each person.

The Church by its nature is Catholic - meant for everyone. You will, in fact, find Christians in almost every nation of the world. Still, we have a long way to go in bringing all people to Christ. We might even feel frustrated that so many fish seem to be slipping out of the net!

We have a lot to learn from today's Gospel. They worked all night, but caught nothing. They kept at it even though they did not see results. But then - when they were bone tired, ready to call it a night - Jesus tells them to put out the nets. Like the apostles, we must do our required tasks, but also be ready for surprises, the Lord's unexpected presence. He can open up a possibility - and even though we might feel exhausted and discouraged - that might be the moment of the greatest opportunity. How often in my years as a priest have I seen the greatest results from something I did not plan or expect?

That also applies to our faith. There is a moment to let down the nets, to bring in a harvest of souls. To recognize that moment requires daily prayer, being attentive to the Lord's voice. Often people will tell me their concerns about their children or grandchildren who have fallen from the practice of the faith. I encourage them first to realize and understand they are not alone in this. Then I encourage them to spend time in prayer for their children or grandchildren, especially prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Maybe they are not the one to speak a word to a child or grandchild. Maybe the Lord will send someone else - or touch their hearts in a more direct way.

Our main task is to listen to the Lord and be prepared to speak or act when he tells us. We must be ready to hear the Lord's voice and act.

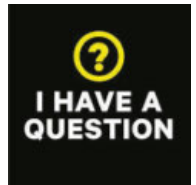
There is something more: we also have to keep the boat and the nets in good repair. If you think about

what you know about fishermen and their lives, you may remember that not only do they look for the best times to cast their nets, but they also spent quite a bit of time tending their nets, making sure there were no places where fish could escape. And of course they are constantly checking their boat to make sure everything was in order.

You and I have to do the same. We have to keep our parish and archdiocese in good repair. Not just the buildings and grounds, of course, but our programs and people. **We have to encourage young men and women to respond to God's will.** My friends, do you know when the last vocation to the priesthood came from Cheshire? Or the last man or woman to enter religious life was? Are we really serious about training and forming our young people for the future of our Church? **More on this next Sunday as we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday.** The bottom line is that we have to have ways of responding to a variety of needs among God's people. We must keep our boats and nets in working condition.

You have a part in that. I am not going to speak about the Archbishop's Annual Appeal this weekend, but what I want to say is this: The Lord wants his Church - guided by the successor of Peter - to bring in people from all corners. Jesus wants his Church to be Catholic (universal) because He alone can satisfy the deepest needs of every person. To bring souls to Jesus, we must spend time - daily - in prayer and also do our part to keep the boat and nets in good repair.

We enter the month of May mindful that it is dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Here we are on the first day of May, with the weather warming,



earth springing into bloom, people all over preparing to plant their gardens, hold family gatherings and picnics, and, of course, making those all important vacation plans. Spring brings forth hope, a hope of new life, a hope of new beginnings.

May also is the month of Mary. The month! Not just a day. For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, the Mother of God. The tradition of dedicating a month to Mary dates back to Baroque times, but it was in the nineteenth century that it became widespread that May was the month dedicated to Mary and it remains the practice to this day.

During May, it is common to honor Mary with special opportunities to come together to pray the Holy Rosary, to celebrate May Crowning, and other prayer opportunities to guide us to strive to imitate Mary in virtue in our own lives. Of course, these things are not reserved only for taking place in our churches, but devotion to Mary should also be happening in your homes, the domestic churches. Perhaps you can create a prayer corner in your home, no matter how fancy or simple, where there is space dedicated to God for prayer, a place you can spend time with God, a proper atmosphere for peace and prayer. For the month of May, give Mary a special place of reverence in that corner, perhaps put a statue of the Blessed Mother or a prayer card on the table.

Above all, in this month of May, remember that Mary is Mother—the mother of God, the mother of God’s only begotten Son, your mother, and my mother—a mother who cares for all of her children day-in and day-out without fail, interceding on our behalf for all that is concerning to us. Of course, our mother deserves a month in which we give her honor and seek to emulate her virtues as we follow her Son. There are also a number of feasts days dedicated to Mary in the month of May—Our Lady of Fatima on May 13th, Mary, Help of Christians on May

24th, and the Visitation on May 31st. Throughout this month we pause to give thanks to God for the invaluable gift of Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church, and Mother of us all.

If you do not have a devotion to the Blessed Mother there is no better time to begin. If you find a whole rosary too much for you at this point in your life, start with one decade. Praying the Rosary helps in providing us with a focus on the life of Christ, an opportunity to embrace the qualities of Mary, and also to ask her intercession for our needs and petitions. I am confident that you will find praying the rosary, even just one decade, a powerful and opportune time to draw yourselves closer to the Lord, and, at the same time, grow into a deeper desire to pray more fully each day.

Pope Paul VI wrote in his encyclical *Mense Maio (month of Mary)* that “may she, who knows the suffering and troubles of life here below, the weariness of everyday work, the hardships and privations of poverty, the sufferings of Calvary, bring help to the needs of the Church and the world, heed the appeals for peace, rising to her from every part of the world and enlighten those who rule the destinies of men.” Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!



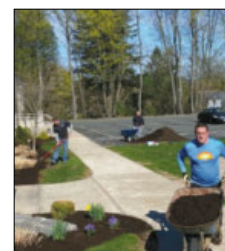
A word of profound gratitude to the Sante Fe Council #2978 of the Knights of Columbus for all their efforts to support our parish throughout the year.

The phrase “In service to one, in service to all” has long been a motto of the Knights of Columbus. And indeed they are. They live out the two great commandments of Jesus Christ: to love God with our entire being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

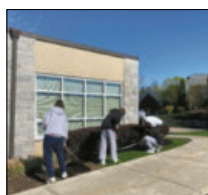
Every day, people witness the work undertaken by Knights as members work in thousands of communities around the world. They strive to live lives filled with charity, which are motivated by faith and hope, and do so in service to others in the name of Jesus!

The Knights of Columbus were founded right down the street in New Haven by a parish priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, now Blessed Michael J. McGivney, on March 29, 1882. He founded the Knights to help the men of his parish to grow in their faith, to provide financial security for the widows and orphans of deceased members, and to perform acts of charity! The Knights are based on four guiding principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Today they number over 2 million members in the world and last year alone, even in the midst of a pandemic, donated over \$150 million dollars to charity and 47 million hours to works of charity.

They are a force of love for our neighbors, wherever and whenever a need arises. Here in Cheshire we see them at the grocery store or at



Hines Hardware selling their infamous tootsie rolls to support the Special Olympics; we see them assisting in various ways to collect food to support the Cheshire Community Food Pantry; we see them hosting their traditional Pancake Breakfasts to support scholarships; and we see them assisting our parish in a variety of ways throughout the year. They are always ready and willing to help out in our parish and for that we thank the Knights. We thank them for helping at our Annual Parish Picnic; we thank them for helping with the St. Bridget School Golf Tournament; and we thank them for helping with odd jobs throughout the year.



Last weekend and this Saturday the Knights organized and executed two Spring Clean-Up Days for our Parish Properties.

Together with family members and some of our high school students, they spent hours cleaning up our parish properties, laying mulch, and making our properties look spectacular.

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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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Online Faith Community

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Get Updates | Grow in Faith
Experience Fellowship

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-  Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish
-  @sboscheshire
-  @sboscheshire
-  www.cheshirecatholic.org

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 Yatecko, 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

- Rectory203-272-3531
- Fax203-271-3356
- Email.....rectory@cheshirecatholic.org
- Bulletin Submissions office@cheshirecatholic.org
- Social Media communications@cheshirecatholic.org
- Mailing Address.....175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

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Thank you for all you do for our Parish Family!

I am taking this opportunity to personally invite all men of the parish, over the age of 18, to consider becoming a Knight of Columbus, or if they are one already to become active in the Council once again! I am confident that we can accomplish much more for our Parish, our School, and the wider community with more Knights in our midst. Won’t you consider joining?

For more information please contact our Grand Knight Jason J. Molitierno at jason_molitierno@yahoo.com

This week please join me in praying for our Third Graders who will receive their First Holy Communion this coming Saturday. Our young people from St. Bridget School and from our Religious Education Program will receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion this coming Saturday, May 7th! They have been well prepared by their teachers, catechists, and families, and now they will come to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord. These lambs will be fed by Jesus the Good Shepherd and gathered into his loving embrace in a new way at their First Holy Communion. We pray that these final days of preparation may be a blessed time for them as they prepare to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist and then be strengthened in a special way to bear much fruit by sharing 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. Know we are all praying for you!



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!

Father Romans

MASS INTENTIONS



©LPI

Saturday, April 30th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Diane Kelleher	The Fuoco, LaBaire, & Tarini Families
4:00 p.m. SBC	Edward M. Daley	His Family
5:15 p.m. STBC	Daniel & Celia Fusco	Daughters, Alice and Sharon

Sunday, May 1st: Third Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. SBC	Ann Piombino	Michael & Elaine Keller
9:00 a.m. SBC	Mary L. Szeglowksi—2nd Anniversary	The Argiro Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	In Living Prayer for Paul & Tina Boccialetti—50th Wedding Anniversary	Their Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Barbara Formica-Bowman	Her Family

Monday, May 2nd: Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. SBC	Gloria Miller & James Hoffman	Maria Stack
9:00 a.m. SBC	Edward LaFrance, Jr.	The Family

Tuesday, May 3rd: Saints Philip and James, Apostles

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, May 4th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Paul Michaelowski—2nd Anniversary	His Wife
9:00 a.m. SBC	Francis H. O'Neill	The Family

Thursday, May 5th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Mary, Dante & Elisa Pasqualoni	Dante Pasqualoni
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Friday, May 6th

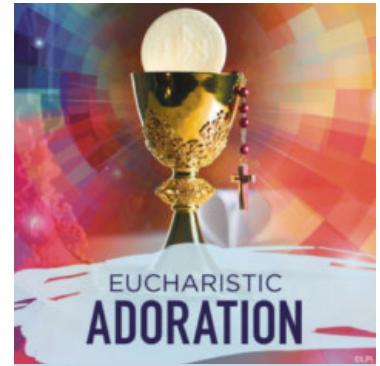
7:00 a.m. SBC	Anna Bodnar	Bill & Sandy Walsh
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Joe O'Reilly	The Haensel Family

Saturday, May 7th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Phyllis Tarini & Josephine Fuoco	Vin & Sandra Fuoco
4:00 p.m. SBC	Barbara, Francis, & Thomas Pronovost	Their Family
5:15 p.m. STBC	Steve Mrowka	Wife & Family

Sunday, May 8th: Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. SBC	Charles Gardinier	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Mabelle Dolan	The Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Irene McElroy	The Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Greg Schena—12th Anniversary	Family



**Friday Adoration Time
Extended One Hour
Beginning This Week!**

Adoration in St. Bridget Church every Friday from 1-3pm and the second Tuesday of the month from 5-6pm

Marriage Banns

Please pray for this couple as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:
I Tyler Lavorgna & Samantha Ragusa



*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Bridget Church
shines this week for
L. Jean Asmus
Requested by The Asmus & Baron Families*



*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Thomas Becket Church
shines this week for
James R. Barranté
Requested by Family*

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

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

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, 1-3pm &
 2nd Tuesday, 5-6pm
 in SBC

SBC=St. Bridget
 STBC=St. Thomas Becket

ONLINE SERVICES This Week

Online Services can be viewed on the homepage of our website at www.cheshirecatholic.org, on YouTube <https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel> or Facebook [@stbridgetofswedenparish](https://www.facebook.com/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 Barbara**

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>

Into the Breach Men's Group
 Join us Saturday mornings April 2 thru June 18
 in the St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

THE MINISTRY OF THE WILD GOOSE

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."

NOTE: There is NO meeting on April 30th and the May 7th meeting will be held in Father Frisbie Hall

MINISTRY OF PRAYING HANDS MEETING

FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

www.cheshirecatholic.org/events

Next meeting May 6th 10am
 Father Frisbie Hall

LAST CHANCE! DON'T MISS OUT!
Providence Italian Style Bus Trip—Wednesday, May 25th \$170 per person

St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Presents...

Providence Italian Style



Payment Due May 4

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-the-scenes 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*



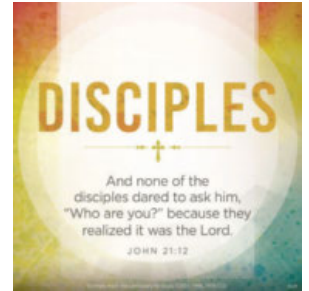
Today is the Third Sunday of Easter

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050122.cfm>

In Lectionary Cycle C, our Sunday Gospels are usually taken from the Gospel of Luke. The Gospels for the Easter Season, however, are taken from the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel is one of the post-Resurrection appearances reported by John. Recall that in John's Gospel, Jesus appears first to Mary of Magdala, second to all of the disciples except Thomas, and finally to Thomas and the disciples (which we heard last Sunday). After those appearances, John's Gospel seems to conclude with a reference to other signs that Jesus gave after his Resurrection, which have not been recorded.

Because it follows this apparent conclusion, most scholars believe today's Gospel passage (and all of John 21) to have been an addition to John's original text. Because there are significant differences between this report and the other appearances described in John's Gospel, it is quite likely that this story is from a different source. There are details in the story that recall Jesus' call to Simon Peter and the other fishermen as well as the miraculous catch of fish (found in the Gospel of Luke, with parallels in the other Synoptic Gospels). The end of the chapter, where Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him, most likely is meant to represent the reconciliation that occurred between the community represented by John's Gospel with the larger Christian community represented by Peter. This Gospel reading is a rich and textured story that speaks of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist and our commission to serve others as Jesus did.



Last week we heard that Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples in a locked room, probably in Jerusalem. In today's Gospel, the disciples are no longer in Jerusalem; they are in Galilee, returning to their work of fishing. Simon Peter is still presented in the role of leader: when he announces that he is going fishing, the other disciples follow. They spend the night fishing but are unsuccessful.

Jesus calls to them from the shore, but just as when Jesus first appeared to Mary of Magdala, the disciples do not recognize him immediately. Still, they follow the stranger's instructions and bring in a large haul of fish. It is at this point that one of the disciples (the "disciple whom Jesus loved") realizes that Jesus is appearing to them. Upon hearing this news, Simon Peter leads the way again, jumping from the boat and swimming to shore. The other disciples follow in the boat, dragging the fish.

The disciples have brought to shore a tremendous catch of fish that Jesus has directed them to find. But once on the shore, they see that Jesus has already prepared fish and bread on a charcoal fire. Jesus directs the disciples to bring their catch of fish as well. Jesus is host at the meal that follows, feeding the disciples the bread and fish. In this detail we see allusions to the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes told in John 6.

There are also allusions in the Gospel to our gathering for the celebration of the Mass. In the Eucharist, we too are fed by Jesus in the bread and wine that have become his very Body and Blood. We also find in this story insight about the Presentation of the Gifts at Mass. The gifts we bring to the altar, bread and wine, are made from gifts that God gave first to us: grain and grapes, the fruit of the earth. God has no need of anything further. Yet God accepts the offering we bring—bread and wine, "the work of human hands"—and transforms our offering into the gift of his very presence.

After the meal, Jesus directs himself to Simon Peter. The community of John's Gospel probably looked down on Peter because of his denial of Jesus. This dialogue with Simon Peter is a reversal of Peter's three denials. Peter is forgiven. Having been restored to friendship with Jesus, Simon Peter is sent on a mission. "Feed my lambs . . . Tend my sheep . . . Feed my sheep." These commands indicate that Peter is to be as Jesus, even unto sacrificing for the flock. As Jesus has fed Peter in this meal and as Jesus feeds us in the Eucharist, so he also sends us to follow him, asking that we offer our lives in service and sacrifice.

www.loyolapress.com

Sunday Reflection "What We Bring to the Fire" — bit.ly/3OD8f2m

Our collection for the week of April 24th



Thank you for your kind generosity!

Collected

Online

Offertory \$14,410.00

Offertory \$8,211.00

Give Online at stbridgetcheshire.weshareonline.org/



St. Bridget School Update

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



Paging Dr. Plasky!

Please join us in congratulating our very own Ms. Plasky as she is now Dr. Plasky!

Dr. Plasky successfully defended her dissertational research, *Supporting Teachers in Utilizing Unplugged Coding in the Classroom*, on April 20th and will be graduating with a Doctorate of Education from SCSU in May. Way to go, Dr. Plasky!

Register Now! Class are Filling!

We are now accepting 2022-2023 applications for Grades PK-3 & PK-4 through Grade 8. Visit our website or call us to set up your in-person tour of our beautiful and spacious campus.

We 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.

Another SBS Artist!

Exciting news came in before the April break that SBS student Meredith Berkun won first place in the Age 11-14 Division in the Annul Knights of Columbus *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest.

This is not Meredith's first time winning an art contest, and we know there will be more to come!

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.



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

SBS Summer Camp and Enrichment Workshops

June 27th - August 5th

Be part of the best summer ever!

Summer Camp: Students entering PreK - 3rd Grade

Enrichment Workshops: Students entering 4th - 8th Grade

Half-Day Hours: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Full-Day Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Enrichment Workshop Hours: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Pick one, two, or as many as you like!

Contact the school for registration forms or more information

Join our School Community

St. Bridget School, Cheshire

@st_bridget_school

www.stbridgetschool.org

St. Bridget School
171 Main Street
Cheshire, CT 06410
203-272-5860

SCHEDULE A TOUR

Find Your Family at St. Bridget School

We are accredited by the
New England Association of Schools & Colleges

Academic Excellence | Community Awareness | Spiritual Growth

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Office of Religious Education
Donna Yatcko, DRE
dyatcko@cheshirecatholic.org
203.272.6504

Monday – Friday 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Classes for this year have finished.

Homeschool families please be sure to complete the materials for this year as soon as possible.

Please watch the bulletin for information regarding registration for the 2022-2023 school year.



We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their help directing traffic on Sunday evenings as the Confirmation students were being dropped off for classes. With their expertise in traffic control, we were able to minimize the congestion on Main Street.

St. Bridget of Sweden
Wellness & Health
Ministry

COPING IN A CHAOTIC WORLD: A PANDEMIC OF STRESS AND ANXIETY

with
Father Philip O’Neill
Dr. Ainsley Backman

Monday, May 16, 2022
at 6:30 pm
St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center
or join us via Zoom

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



Both Pope Francis and the Bishops of the United States remind us that by virtue of our human nature, we are called to love and respect all peoples. We are called to be brothers and sisters to all. This is what Pope Francis calls Social Friendship.

“In his simple and direct way, Saint Francis expressed the essence of a fraternal openness that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he or she was born or lives.” Fratelli Tutti #1

Sadly, we do not always live up to this ideal. A particular ongoing challenge here in the United States is the evil of racism. In the words of the U.S. Bishops:

“As bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States, we want to address one particularly destructive and persistent form of evil. Despite many promising strides made in our country, racism still infects our nation. What Is Racism? Racism arises when—either consciously or unconsciously—a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard. When this conviction or attitude leads individuals or groups to exclude, ridicule, mistreat, or unjustly discriminate against persons on the basis of their race or ethnicity, it is sinful (Open Wide Our Hearts, pg. 3).”

Racism can be subtle, so we ask you to look around you and see: how are we failing as a community to love and respect all human persons?

Access the documents here: <https://www.usccb.org/fratelli-tutti> and here: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/open-wide-our-hearts-enduring-call-love-pastoral-letter-against-racism>

Ask Father

Dear Father: Why does the priest need altar servers?

Dear friend in Christ,

Simply put, altar servers make the practical aspects of the Liturgy flow more smoothly. At least most of the time when they are well trained.

An altar server holds the book for the priest when praying from the chair. They hold candles next to the Gospel as it is being proclaimed. They assist with incense, assist with the preparation of the altar and perform other helpful functions.

Additionally, on a personal level, serving the holy Mass is a great honor and helps young people, especially, to learn the Mass well so that they can better join in the offering. Being present in the sanctuary, dressing in server cassocks or albs, and being attentive to the flow of the liturgy should hopefully have the effect of helping servers to grow in a deeper love and reverence for the Mass. Also, at times and in cultures where boys act as altar servers, this helps plant the seed of a vocation in the minds and hearts of those whom God is calling to serve as priests.

If you know an altar server, make sure to thank them for their service and encourage them in their important role.

Best, Fr. Peter



The St. Bridget School Auction, presented by the Home & School Association, has become the largest fundraiser for the school with all proceeds directly benefiting our students. The funding raised at this event in past years has been instrumental in expanding the educational technology, improving safety and security with additional cameras throughout school grounds, as well as bringing exciting and important educational school programs for our children to enhance their learning environment.

To purchase tickets or donate an item, go to:

<https://stbridgetschool.ejoinme.org/sbsauction2022>

**The St. Bridget School HSA
presents two
Family Eat Out Events**



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Monday, May 23rd & Tuesday, May 24th
11am – 10pm

Dine in or Take-out! Lunch & Dinner!
Indoor and outdoor seating
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The restaurant will donate a portion of all proceeds back to St. Bridget School HSA.
Enjoy a great meal and help our school!



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, 2012 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@cheshirecatholic.org

or

ptodman@cheshirecatholic.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 acknowledgment 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.

FORMED in FAITH

We're back with part two of our seven-part series on the Sacraments! **This week, we take a look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation, also known as Confession, also known as The Most Underutilized Sacrament.** Certainly we're all familiar with the idea of Confession, but what's it all about? What's required to make the Sacrament valid? And what do you do if you haven't been in many years?

Reconciliation is the Sacrament that most Catholics receive second, after Baptism. It is the means by which our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled with God. There are only 3 requirements for a Confession to be valid: **1) True sorrow for our sins 2) Verbal confession of sin 3) Desire to do penance.**

Pretty simple, right? For our Confession to be valid, all we need to do is be truly sorry for our sins, confess them verbally, and accept the penance that the priest gives us. **The first one, hopefully, is the easiest.** The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be an uncomfortable experience (it's not the greatest feeling to verbalize your sins), so anyone actively seeking to receive it is likely already sorry for their sins.

The second step is what takes up the majority of our time in the Confessional or Reconciliation Room. When we enter into the Sacrament, it's a good idea to tell the priest how long it's been since your last Confession. **This is NOT so he can judge or condemn you – far from it!** Telling him how long it's been can help him better understand where you're coming from and give you more relevant spiritual guidance and advice. Think about it – the Confession of a person who's returning to the Sacrament after thirty years away will likely be very different from that of someone who went last week!

We feel it's extremely important to acknowledge that some may have had negative experiences with the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the past. Perhaps a priest judged you, yelled at you, or condemned you. **That is not at all what this Sacrament is about, and we apologize to anyone who has been hurt in this way in the past.** That was not from God, and we invite you to return the Sacrament, free of judgement or harsh words, and receive the mercy of the Living God into your life, no matter how long it's been.

Okay, so you're in the Reconciliation Room. You've told Father how long it's been, and it's time to confess your sins. What do you do? Hopefully you've given some thought to the sins the Lord has placed on your heart to confess (and/or done an Examination of Conscience, which we have in little booklets outside the Reconciliation Room for your convenience). **Simply and clearly state the sins you've committed without too much framing or commentary.** You don't need to know the exact number of times you've committed each one; the Lord knows your heart and wants to forgive you!

At this point, the priest will sometimes share a few words of encouragement or spiritual guidance. Take them to heart! **He will then give you your penance (requirement #3), which we are called to accept with humility, and ask you to make an Act of Contrition.** If you don't remember the standard prayer, it's on a card for you to read from in the Reconciliation Room! You're also welcome to make your own Act of Contrition acknowledging that you're sorry for your sins and wish to do penance.

It is at this point that we're given Absolution, which is the reason for the Sacrament's existence. While many other Christian churches believe that one can simply confess one's sins to the Lord in the privacy of one's home and be forgiven, Jesus knew what He was doing when He instituted Reconciliation for us. Hearing the priest, *in persona Christi*, say **"I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"** is one of the most freeing and beautiful moments that a Catholic can experience.

So even if you haven't been to Confession in many years, consider this your personal invitation to come back. Confessions are heard in St. Bridget Church at 3pm on Saturdays and 5-6pm on the second Tuesday of each month. **The Lord is sitting there, waiting for you – will you come and receive His forgiveness?**



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 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.

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!

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Knights Doing Their Part for Ukrainian Relief

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly traveled to Poland and Ukraine during Holy Week to meet with Knights and witness and encourage their ongoing humanitarian efforts in response to the war in Ukraine.



Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly (center) and his Ukrainian counterpart Youriy Maletskiy deliver Easter care packages April 12 to families taking refuge at a 14th-century monastery in Rava-Ruska, in western Ukraine.

During his visit, the supreme knight was able to convey the support and gratitude of Pope Francis as well as his own. The Holy Father received Supreme Knight Kelly in a private audience at the Vatican on Monday, April 11, before the supreme knight and his family continued to Poland.

Here at home, our Cheshire Council is planning a Grab & Go fundraising event in the near future to do our part. We hope to include some traditional Slavic favorites as the main course with proceeds going to the Ukrainian relief efforts that has our Supreme Headquarters in New Haven as the center of Order Wide efforts. Watch this space in the coming weeks for more information.



Calling all ALTAR SERVERS!

We will be having a training session for new and current Altar Servers soon.

If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server or have been an Altar Server in the past and want to serve again, please call the rectory office at 203-272-3531.

Father Romans and Father Peter are looking forward to your assistance in this important ministry!



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Next Generation of Disciples
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Next meeting:

Wednesday

May 4th

6:30-8:30pm

SBS Gym

Star Wars Night!!

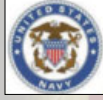
Saint of the Week: *Saint Hilary of Arles*

Bio: Saint Hilary of Arles was born around the year 401 in France. He (yes, he) came from a wealthy family, but was soon persuaded by a relative to join a monastery. He did so, and even became a bishop at the tender age of 29. He took to his role with gusto, doing manual labor to raise money for the poor, selling sacred vessels to ransom captives, and traveling everywhere on foot. He was known as an excellent orator! He had some squabbles with other bishops he was in charge of, deposing one and getting into a bit of a pickle with another over an illness. Pope Saint Leo chastised him, but allowed him to remain a bishop. Hilary died in 449 at the young age of 49 and is a great reminder to us all that we are to respect authority – even if it is found in a young person.

Saint Hilary of Arles, pray for us!

Verse of the Week *Jeremiah 31:25*

“For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.”



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. Iannucci, 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
 AWO2 Kyle (DeVylder) Kohl, US Navy
 Lt. Cdr. Jared Korn, US Coast Guard
 Sergeant Gregory J. Kowalski, USMC
 Airman First Class Benjamin M. LeClerc, USAF
 MA2 Tiana Lefebvre, 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 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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Caring about our neighbors

203-699-9226
175 Sandbank Road, Cheshire, CT

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

- ketchup
- bread crumbs
- mayonnaise
- pasta sauce
- bottled juice
- old-fashioned oatmeal

Please note that the Food Pantry:

- Cannot accept expired or opened items
- Cannot use large industrial canned goods
- **Can accept perishable goods anytime**; the lobby has a freezer and refrigerator
- 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!

THURSDAY EVENINGS
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