

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Where Christ is Our Light

SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I know them, and they follow me."

- Jn 10:27

From the Pastor's Desk

©LPi



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

Dear Friends in Christ:

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

Please know that each of you are in our prayers.

How appropriate it is that in this month of May in which we honor the Blessed Mother Mary, as I wrote about last week-

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

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

A word of HAPPIEST CONGRATULATIONS to the 124 of our third graders who are receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend! It was such a joy for me and Father Piotr to see our young people filled with excitement as



they received their Sacraments. What a true privilege it is for us as priests to journey with our young people during their preparation for the Sacraments. We pray for these fine young people, in a special way, that they may always follow the call of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and walk as children of God spreading His love in their lives and the lives of those they encounter. *Happiest congratulations to our young people and please know your parish family loves you!*

I wish to express my profound gratitude to all involved in preparing our young people for the Sacraments.

Thank you to their parents and godparents, first and foremost, for fulfilling the promise you made on the day of their baptism to bring them up in the practice of the faith. Thank you to their teachers and catechists from our Parish School and our Religious Education Program who journeyed with them, taught them, shared your faith with them, and prepared them for this day in their faith lives!



Today is also Good Shepherd Sunday, and World Day of Prayer for Vocations! The Gospel this Fourth Sunday of Easter always features a Gospel referring to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. While that Gospel passage this weekend (Jn. 10:27-30) is the shortest (only five sentences), it packs a powerful message.

First, Jesus counts among his followers his "sheep," those who hear and recognize his voice, which begs the question for us to ponder then, how do we hear and recognize Jesus' voice?

- By getting to know Jesus as a companion and friend through prayer and worship.

- By reading the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels which are about His life and ministry, which give His teachings and sayings, and which share with us about His ultimate sacrifice of love for us.
- By receiving Him in the Eucharist when we receive His most precious Body and Blood and by receiving His forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we come to know Him personally.

Second, we have within this short passage Jesus' promise of eternal life to us when He says: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." Wow! What a gift! Jesus, who Himself passed through death to life in the great "Paschal Mystery" offers us who follow Him the very same. That is great cause for our being overwhelmed with joy this Easter Season!

Good Shepherd Sunday is also a time for us to consider our part in encouraging our young people to consider that God might be calling them to the priesthood or to religious life. We all have a part to play in the work of vocations. Yes even you who are reading this have a role to play, not just us priests or the sisters. EVERY member of the Church has to take an active role in encouraging our young people to discern God's will in their lives. I asked the question last weekend in this very article, actually two questions:

do you know when the last vocation to the priesthood came from Cheshire?, and, do you know who the last man or woman to enter religious life was? I am told that the last vocation to the priesthood was Father John Dietrich who was ordained a priest in 1993, and the last woman to enter religious life



was Sister Mary Mercy (Robyn Lee) who entered discernment with the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in the Fall of 2014. Almost 30 years since our parish has given a priestly vocation to the church and 8 years since someone has entered religious life. We can change that!

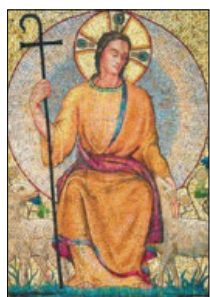
Last weekend I was at the Annual Meeting of the Knights of Columbus State Council which I serve, as you know, as their State Chaplain.

In my role, I was privileged to address the Knights who had gathered. I spoke to them about the role of Saint Joseph as an example of what it means to practice humility, to teach our children, to use our God-given gifts, and to be obedient to God's will. I also spoke to them about the upcoming Eucharistic Revival beginning this year which the bishops of the United States are calling "a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission 'for the life of the world.'"

In speaking about this program and how the Knights will play a role in the coming years locally and throughout the country, I also reminded them of some statistics about the reality of life in the Church here in America.

Among those statistics was the reality of the priesthood in America. There are a third fewer priests today in this country since 1965 despite a 68% increase in Catholic membership (a number primarily so high due to parishioners coming from the Hispanic cultures). The median age of priests is now 59, and around 40% are over the age of 65 making retirement and death the top reasons for the decline.

Further concerning is that more than one in five of the 17,337 churches in America do not have a resident priest. In 1965 that number was one in 33. Even though roughly 500 priests were ordained in the past year in the country, praise God, the number is still too low to provide new leaders to churches without priests. AND THIS YEAR for only the second time in the history of our own Archdiocese, there will be



NO ordinations to the priesthood.

I reminded those gathered at the convention, and I remind you of what Saint John Paul II said in his letter to priests on Holy Thursday of 2004, and let these words sink in, "there can be no Eucharist without the priesthood, just as there can be no priesthood without the Eucharist."

As I said to the Knights gathered there, so I now say to you on this Good Shepherd Sunday, THE TIME IS NOW

to start truly encouraging young men to consider that the Lord may be calling them to the priesthood. **Priests do not drop out of the sky, they come from among families, and your families, please God. IT IS ESSENTIAL** that we, YOU AND ME, continue to make the conscious effort to encourage young men to be open to hearing God's call in their life and assist them in the discernment process. I know God is calling some of the young men in this parish, but they need to feel encouraged and supported to answer that call. Study after study has shown that encouragement from priests, parishioners, and family and friends were a key factor in considering the priesthood. Be that source of encouragement and do your part in vocation ministry!

If we love the Eucharist, and the Church, then we will encourage young men we encounter everywhere to consider what the Lord is calling them to do with their lives. We cannot wait for others to encourage them, we must encourage them, we may be the only person to do so. May Saint Joseph and Blessed

Michael McGivney intercede for us and bless the Church here in the Archdiocese of Hartford with a plentiful abundance of priestly vocations so that the Eucharist can be offered for the people of God.

Today being Good Shepherd Sunday is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to

the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. Resources for promoting vocations can be found on the USCCB website, www.usccb.org.

Also at the Knights of Columbus Convention two children from our parish school and one of our families were honored with special recognition. What a joy and blessing it was to be there and see my own parishioners being recognized.

First, was the Spilka Family who were honored as being named the Family of the Year for the Connecticut State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Peter & Rosa Spilka met at a diocesan young adult retreat in the Boston area and married in 2010. They settled in Cheshire in 2015 and joined Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. The Spilka's have three children, Abigail, Gianna, & James.

Peter & Rosa attended their first March for Life in Washington, D.C. in 2010. In 2018, they were appointed St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Pro-Life Chairs and served until earlier this year. As dedicated parish Pro-Life Advocates, Peter & Rosa coordinated the Pro-Life activities in the parish as well as educating parishioners on the dignity of all human life and promoting a culture of life in their parish.

Peter & Rosa's children attend St. Bridget School in Cheshire. The Spilka's are committed to a faith-filled education for their children and support the school in a variety of ways. With other parents, Rosa co-chaired last year's St. Bridget School Auction, the largest fundraiser for the school and, this year, she is co-chairing the HSA Mother's Day Plant Sale.

In addition, Peter has participated in

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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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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

Rectory.....203-272-3531
 Fax.....203-271-3356
 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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“Into the Breach,” a Knights of Columbus video study for men which seeks to answer the question of what it means to be a man and how to live as a man of faith in today’s world. Rosa and Peter volunteer with the parish’s Children’s Choir. And, with other young adults, they coordinated last year’s No Turkey Thanksgiving Dinner for the parish.

The Spilka’s are founding members and co-leaders of the recently formed i.d.9:16 Young Adult Ministry, which strives to help men and women become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. The group meets at least twice a month for Mass and prayer and discussion to grow deeper in their faith and learn to live out the call to be followers of Christ. So that members with small children can participate, childcare is provided.

Throughout their lives as a married couple and family, the Spilka’s have been an example of Catholic Family Life through their service to and support of their parish, school, and community. **HAPPIEST CONGRATULATIONS on this recent recognition for all that you do to live out your faith!**

Also, two students from St. Bridget School were recognized for their artistic talents and were winners of the *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest. Happiest congratulations to Nina (grade 1), and Meredith (grade 6) for not only being winners in the parish, the region, and all of Connecticut, but BOTH were also the international winner for their age group! **We are so proud of you both! Happiest Congratulations!**

An Update on our support of the Orphanage #1 in Lodz, Poland. I am so pleased to share with you that EVERY child in the orphanage is now being sponsored by an individual or family from our parish. The items have been coming in fast and furious and the first shipment of items was sent this past Wednesday. YOU are amazing in your care, compassion, concern, and love for others! Thank you! From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the very real way you live out the Gospel. It gives me as your Pastor, and certainly those who benefit from your generosity, great hope!



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



Team Serenity Virtual Support Group for Caregivers of Children with Autism

Monthly via Zoom every 3rd Wednesday
Next meeting: 5/18/22
6:00-7:00 pm

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

A note of thanks from the Brian Gibbons
Golf Tournament Committee:

Dear Father Romans and
Church Family,

Thank you so much for your
continued support for the
homeless outreach in loving
memory of Brian Gibbons.

Your generosity makes it possible
for Rick & his team to carry on
serving those in need.

God Bless You,
Susan Gibbons & the Golf
Committee Members

Marriage & Banns

Please pray for these couples as they
prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:

- II Tyler Lavorgna & Samantha Ragusa
- I Darrick Chekas & Jennie Flavell

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

Monday, May 9th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Bob Glazewski	Gail, His Wife
9:00 a.m. SBC	Marie Montano and Theresa Manzelli	Linda & Ray Manzelli

Tuesday, May 10th

7:00 a.m. SBC	The People of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish	
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Wednesday, May 11th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Pasqualina & Guiseppe Tranquillo	Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Andrew Abate	Tim & Marion Ryan

Thursday, May 12th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Daniel Reilly	Lynn & Karl Krieg
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Friday, May 13th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Anne Scanlan	Rosetta McGovern
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—Elizabeth Rittell	Paul & Corinne Camerato

Saturday, May 14th: Saint Matthias, Apostle

9:00 a.m. SBC	Marlene Buckman	Wilma Buckman
4:00 p.m. SBC	Aaron Hunter	His Family
5:15 p.m. STBC	Ernie Brandolini	Barbara & Family

Sunday, May 15th: Fifth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. SBC	Marlene Buckman	Wilma Buckman
9:00 a.m. SBC	Rose Asprelli	Banti Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Carl Iaccarino	The Romania Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Frank D. Arisco—25th Anniversary	Ann, Dave, Steve, & Cair Arisco

*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Bridget Church
shines this week for
Timothy Ryan
Requested by Joanne Buckheit*



*The Tabernacle candle at
St. Thomas Becket Church
shines this week for
James Stanley
Requested by Kate Carriero*

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

**NOTE: no 4pm Mass on
 Sunday after 5/22**

**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 Ex-
 traordinary Minister of
 Holy Communion will
 bring Communion out-
 side at the appropriate
 time in the Mass for
 you to leave your vehi-
 cle, receive Holy Com-
 munion, 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 Ignatius of Laconi

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>

Ask Father

Dear Father: Are demons tricking us by labeling crystals as healing stones? Could crystal energy be opening you up to demons?

Dear friend in Christ,

Thank you for a very insightful question! The quick answer is "Yes," the occult or "New Age" belief that crystals provide some sort of spiritual healing power is not from God. In fact, it is often a deception from the evil one who seeks to distort God's creation by trying to turn something beautiful within creation itself into something allegedly magical.

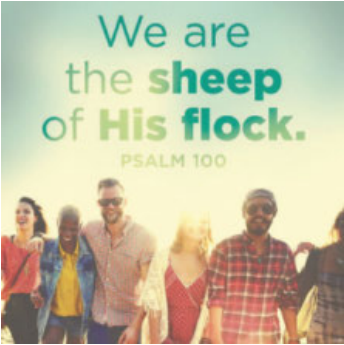
First of all, there are many forms of crystals, such as quartz, diamonds, jasper, turquoise, amethyst, sapphire, ruby, and many more. Crystals are part of God's creation, and they are quite beautiful! Even the Book of Revelation in the Bible uses crystals to symbolically depict the walls of the new Heavens that await. So, crystals are good! They are from God. They are part of creation and they are beautiful to behold.

With that said, in regard to your question, anything that is good can be used in a way that is not from God. The modern fascination with crystals as "healing stones" or the claims of "crystal energy" has been around since the beginning of time. It's a deception by which the evil one tries to turn part of God's creation into a false god, which is a violation of the First Commandment: "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:2-3). In other words, attributing spiritual power to crystals is akin to creating a false god.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

2116 All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future.⁴⁸ Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.

Best, Fr. Peter



Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter

The readings for today can be found at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/050822.cfm>

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to his authority by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see John 10:31 and 10:39). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of my sheep." Then Jesus asserts his unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but he escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as his sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and his followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and his disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

www.loyolapress.com



Sunday Reflection "Learn to Hear With Your Heart" — bit.ly/3LDIq0q



BE NOT AFRAID FAMILY HOUR

Pray together as a family
with other families

May 11th, 4:15 to 5:45 pm
Father Frisbie Hall

Program includes:
A talk for parents
Babysitting for kids during the talk
Rosary as a family
Socialization with other families

Register each month
with Sister Mary Rose
203-272-3531

srmaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org



Welcome

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

- Samantha Alberino*
- Colin & Sarah Bradley*
- Claire Duffy*
- Brendan & Jessica Gillespie*
- Tony & Tammy Hurtado*
- Tammy Maher*
- Alexandra Martins*
- William & Alice Minervino*
- Matthew & Chelsea Smith*
- Gregory & Adrian Sterling*
- Michael & Lauren Stevens*
- Constance Sulpasso*
- John & Joanne Svogun*
- Paul & Hayley Tuscano*



St. Bridget School Update

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

Nancy Maier Light of Christ Scholarship

It is with great pleasure to announce that in addition to Mrs. Nancy Maier being a 2022 Light of Christ award recipient, Mrs. Maier has decided to graciously share some of her award towards a one-time scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year. This scholarship has been awarded to Sidh Patel, in Grade 6.

Sidh is not only a strong student academically, but he and his family have demonstrated a commitment to Catholic Education for many years for all of their children, from elementary school and beyond.

Great job Sidh and Family!



Grade 6 Student Sidh Patel and Mrs. Maier

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.

Applications are Being Accepted

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.



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

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two, or as
many as
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Academic Excellence | Community Awareness | Spiritual Growth



Many thanks to the Formica Family!

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Formica family who have generously donated their time and talent to supply the delicious cookies for our First Communion receptions this weekend. They were enjoyed by all!!!

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.

Congratulations to our young parishioners who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ continue to nourish your faith as you walk as children of God.

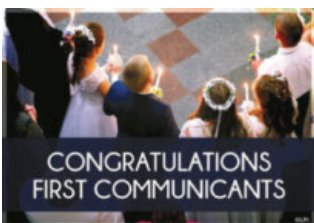


Victoria Anctil
Gabriella Abastillas
Patrick Apps
Madison Aras
Santino Baggetta
Gavin Bardelli
Brandon Barghout
Logan Barna
Mitchell Barrett
Hazel Bathrick
Brooke Berry
Samantha Berry
Nathan Borrero
Benjamin Bourdon
Crew Bowman
Tyler Bozzuto
Jonathan Braca
Natalie Brenes
Carson Briggs
Braettan Brunnock
Ian Bunick
Samuel Burton
Allison Carson
Kaitlyn Cassesse
Nicolo Chiello

Reed Cianchetti
Loredana Colonna
Vivian Condon
Clementine Cooney
Asher Corcoran
Samuel DeOliveira
Jaxon DiDomizio
Levi DiDomizio
Benjamin Dillon
Isabella DiSorbo
Giulia Doroghazi
Olivia D'Orso
Liam Doyle
Colin Dumais
Marco Durante
Amie Ebert
Connor Elliot
Caitlyn Frobels
Emma Geaski
Audrey Githmark
Sofia Giuliano
Maeve Gleason
Thomas Gonzalez
Lily Grenier
Joseph Grippe
Olivia Guilfoil
Harper Hanlon
Olivia Hillson
Everett Horvath
Emilia Juliano
Maya Kelly
James Kennedy
Sofia Khokhar

Carter Kolwicz
Addison Lacy
Isabella Lee
Andrew Lentini
Ryan Lewoc
Liam Lewonka
Juliana Lopez
Owen Loveland
Madelyn Lundquist
Charlotte Maher
Charlotte McEvoy
Finley Miller
Katie Murdy
Ryan Nelson
Raleigh Neth
Leo Niglio
Samya Odeh
Lucy O'Leary
Sean O'Reardon
Giuliana Papa
Lily Paquette
Mason Paquette
Jack Paquette
Lauren Patchell
Rowan Pelletier
Fiona Pergioni
James Piccirillo
Jaxon Piscitelli
Casey Plouffe
Sonney Pompei
Tessa Powers
Nicholas Proto
Cole Pruitt

Zoe Quintanilla
Gabel Richard
James Risi
Payton Rosebrock
Jacob Ruddy
Dylan Rykoski
Lucas Sansolo
Zoe Santora
Lex Sardinias
Hayden Schultz
Sophia Scigliano
Alessandra Selmont
Ava Sheppard
Ariella Silva
Sebastian Silva
Robert Silva
Ryan Simmons
Hailey Simpson
Aidan Smith
Isobel Smith
Blake Snedden
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Family Eat Out Events



Viron Rondo Osteria

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

Dine in or Take-out! Lunch & Dinner!
Indoor and outdoor seating
Reservations suggested

The restaurant will donate a portion of all proceeds
back to St. Bridget School HSA.
Enjoy a great meal and help our school!

FORMED in FAITH

We're back with the third edition of our seven-part series on the Sacraments, and this time we focus on the most frequently-celebrated Sacrament of them all: The Eucharist. **Known as the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist is rightly referred to as the source and summit of the Catholic faith.** It is both what gets us through the week and what our week builds towards.

The Eucharist is also one of the key differences between Catholics and the vast majority of other Christian denominations. While many Protestants view the bread and wine used in their services as "symbols" or "representations" of Christ, **we believe that He is truly present in the Eucharist.** That's right: each and every Mass culminates with the miraculous transubstantiation of mere bread and wine into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Hopefully, this is the Sacrament whose matter we are all the most familiar with. After all, we all celebrate it at least once per week...right? Anyways, here are the gritty details. According to Canon Law (Father Romans' favorite), **"The bread used... must be unleavened, purely of wheat, and recently made."** In addition, **"The wine that is used...must be natural, from the fruit of the grape, pure and incorrupt, and not mixed with other substances."**

You heard it here first, no banana bread or White Zinfandel may be used in the celebration of the Eucharist! **These requirements mirror what Jesus would have used at the very first Eucharist: the Last Supper.** If you remember, the Last Supper was a Passover meal, and Jesus would have adhered to the Jewish Passover custom of unleavened bread.

In addition, the Eucharistic requirements are intended to preserve the integrity of the Sacrament; while the bread and wine appear to remain unchanged, we know by faith that they are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ. **Taste and appearance are not the priority here.**

The moment of transubstantiation occurs when the priest, *In Persona Christi*, raises the bread and wine and says "This is my Body...This is my Blood." **It is Christ who speaks these words through the priest, and in saying them performs the act of transubstantiation.** While the *appearance* of the elements remains the same, their *substance* is forever and fundamentally changed.

The best way to explain how the Eucharist is changed even though its appearance remains constant is as follows: Humans, at our most basic level, are flesh, blood, and bone inside a skinsuit. That is the most basic way to describe us, but does that adequately capture who and what we are? Are we merely a mishmash of organic matter? **Of course not.**

In the same way, at its most basic level, the Eucharist is pieces of unleavened bread and wine. **That is an accurate description, but it does not capture the full essence of what it truly is.** The Eucharist still has the look, taste, and feel of bread and wine, but we know it to be so, so much more than that.

We could write a thousand Formed in Faith articles on the Eucharist, and we would just barely scratch the surface. Hopefully this short piece gives you some insight into the matter of the Sacrament and helps you to grow in belief in Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist. We'll see you next week, when we discuss Confirmation!



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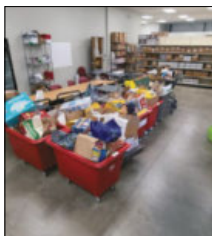


Say Cheese!



AS SUMMER APPROACHES and donations to our Cheshire Community Food Pantry begin to ebb, it's time for the Cheshire Knights to take action. Next weekend we'll be holding a food drive to support Cheshire residents in need through the Cheshire Community Food Pantry and we ask you, our fellow parishioners, to help in this effort with donations of non-perishable items, especially with items in the list below:

- Ketchup Frosting Paper Towels Mayonnaise**
- Canned Chili Toilet Paper Toothpaste**
- Jell-O & Pudding Cups**



Past food drives by our Council netted a plethora of donations for those in need.

So, what is "Say Cheese" all about? Here it is from the Cheshire Community Food Pantry website:

Our focus continues to be to provide life necessities to residents of the town of Cheshire who are in need. One item we consistently do not have on our shelves are dairy products, what specifically? Cheese. Our families most requested item to have at the pantry is cheese. We have plenty of refrigeration and have a refrigerator in our donation area that is open 24/7. Would you consider donating dairy products? Contact our Pantry Manager, Judy Collins, judy@cheshirefoodpantry.org for more information.

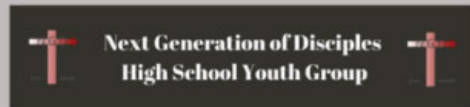
Since we can only accept non-perishable items in the food drive, if you want to "Say Cheese," contact the pantry at the email address above, and thank you for all you do.



Our collection for the week of May 1st

	<u>Collected</u>	
Offertory		\$15,260.00
	<u>Online</u>	
Offertory		\$7,518.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Next meeting:
 Wednesday
 May 11th
 6:30-8:30pm
 SBS Gym
 Bring a Friend Night!

Saint of the Week: *Saint Ignatius of Laconi*
 Bio: Saint Ignatius of Laconi was born in 1701 in Sardinia. He was born to a family of peasants, and was the second of seven children. He became deathly ill at a young age, vowing to become a Capuchin if he survived. He recovered... but ignored his promise. At the age of 20, he was in a severe riding accident, prompting him to renew his vow. He once again recovered, and followed through this time. He quickly gained a reputation of self-denial and charity and was soon named the official beggar for the friars in Cagliari. He served in this role for 40 years. Ignatius would often instruct children, visit the sick, and call sinners to repentance while he made his begging rounds. The people around him were inspired by his kindness and faithfulness. He died in 1781 and was canonized in 1951.

Saint Ignatius of Laconi, pray for us!

Verse of the Week *Ephesians 6:13*

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."



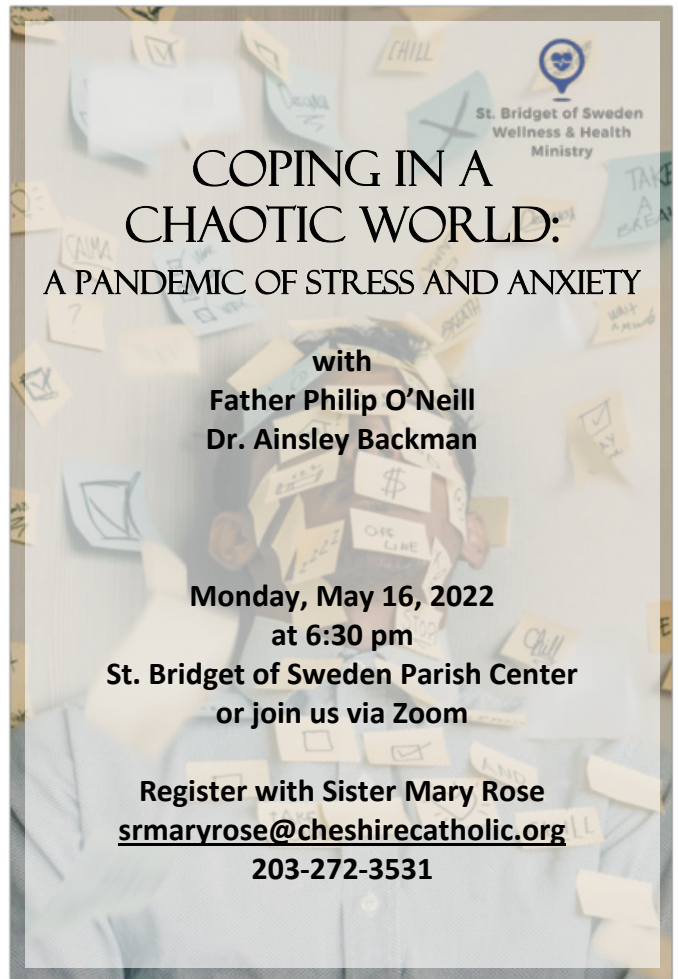
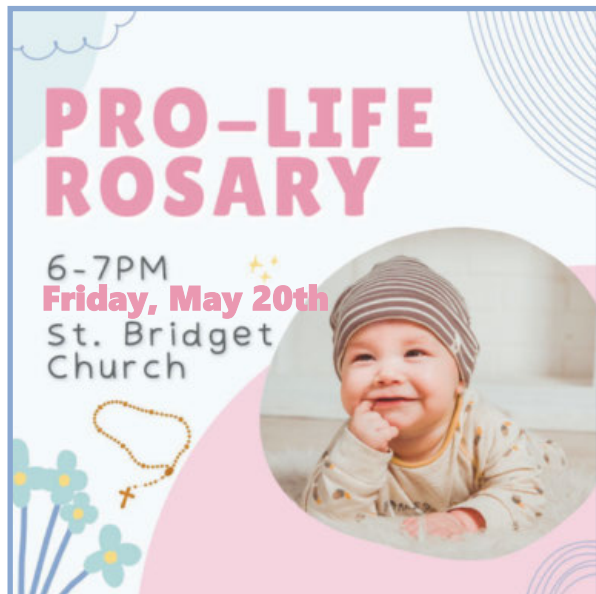
Humankind has struggled to love each other since the Fall of Adam and Eve. For a time we make progress in loving each other, but we often fall back into denying the dignity of our fellow humans.

“A readiness to discard others finds expression in vicious attitudes that we thought long past, such as racism, which retreats underground only to keep reemerging. Instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think (Fratelli Tutti Paragraph 20).”

“Racism comes in many forms. It can be seen in deliberate, sinful acts. In recent times, we have seen bold expressions of racism by groups as well as individuals. The re-appearance of symbols of hatred, such as nooses and swastikas in public spaces, is a tragic indicator of rising racial and ethnic animus. All too often, Hispanics and African Americans, for example, face discrimination in hiring, housing, educational opportunities, and incarceration (Open Wide Our Hearts, pg. 4).”

While this eons-long struggle may seem insurmountable, we can challenge it. “This is the path. Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention (Fratelli Tutti Paragraph 11).”

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>



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Brother Leo is the Land Management Supervisor at The Franciscan Life Center and a Master Gardener

WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

TIME: 11AM-1PM

WHERE: ON THE PATIO OF ST. THOMAS BECKET CHURCH

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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.



The Cheshire Community Food Pantry, Inc.
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:

- bread crumbs -crackers -BBQ sauce
- frosting -pasta sauce -olives
- 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
 St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center
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