



# SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

*Where Christ is Our Light*

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**SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022**

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## 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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“Peace I leave with you.”  
- Jn 14:27a

# From the Pastor's Desk

©LPi



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

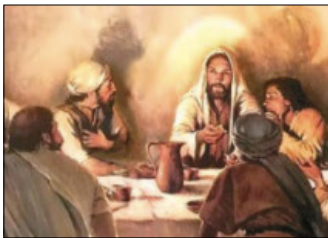
## Dear Friends in Christ:

### Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

In recent weeks Jesus has given us an opportunity to listen to some of the conversation between him and his Father. He says things like, "I thank you Father." "I know you always hear me." And, "you in me and I in you."

This Sunday Jesus invites us into that that conversation. He tells us that the reason he came is so that we can enter that relationship. The relationship begins at baptism - when we receive the Holy Spirit - but it reaches its high point in what we are doing right now: the Mass.

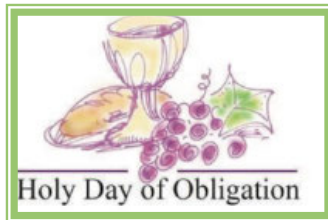
When Jesus hung on the cross, he cried, "I thirst." He had a physical thirst for water, but he had a deeper thirst - for your soul and mine. That's how much Jesus wants to take you and me into the conversation between him and his Father. That is why he came. As we heard today: "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."



This happens at Mass. When I hold up the Body and Blood of Jesus, I might be off-key, I might be distracted and I am certainly unworthy to lift up the Holy One. But none of that greatly matters because it is Jesus who invites

you - and me. He thirsts for you and me. He wants us to be part of his eternal relationship with the Father.

If Jesus invites you and me, then there's something we need to do: Invite someone else. Jesus wants you and me to share his conversation, his relationship with the Father. That's why he came. That's why he gave his life. He thirsts for our salvation. And He wants us to invite others into that same relationship. "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." Amen.



**Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation...**How is it possible that nearly 40 days have passed since Easter? Time certainly flies! This coming Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, is Ascension Thursday, when we recall and celebrate Jesus ascending into heaven.

In the opening verses of The Acts of the Apostles, Luke gives us a detailed description of this event introduced by these words: "In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after He had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." Before Jesus began his public ministry, he prepared himself through 40 days of fasting in the desert. After his resurrection, but before returning to the Father, Jesus prepared his apostles for their public ministry

through 40 days of instruction and accompaniment.

**The Ascension is one of six Holy Days of Obligation observed by the Catholic Church in the United States**, along with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), the Assumption of Mary (August 15), All Saints Day (November 1), the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and Christmas Day (December 25, of course). Due to the significance in our faith of each of these events in the life of our Savior Jesus Christ and that of His Mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, they are observed as Holy Days of Obligation, with the same expectation that we attend Mass as we do on Sundays. **Please see our Mass schedule on Page Seven of the bulletin for the listing of Masses for Ascension Thursday.**

**We need YOU for a NEW ministry in our Parish Family!** The Pastoral Team has been discussing for a good amount of time the idea of forming a team of couples who would work together committed to the future of our children baptized in the Catholic faith. Training will be available!!!



What is the Baptismal Preparation Team? It will be a group of couples who once a month will take turns helping in the formation of parents and godparents as they prepare to bring their child(ren) to Jesus through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Every Parent, and Godparent when possible, has the responsibility of attending a Baptism Preparation Class prior to their first child's Baptism.

These Baptism Preparation classes are held once a month in the parish center. During these classes the Baptismal Preparation Team will not only introduce the Celebration of Baptism, but will also inform and encourage Parents and Godparents in their roles as nurturers of the life entrusted to them in their child and their role in forming their child(ren) as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Team members, through resources and lived experiences, will help to equip parents with lifelong tools to fulfill their role as the primary formers of their child's faith.

Who should serve on this Baptismal Preparation Team? Any parent, either individually or as a couple, who desires to help new parents in their roles as moms and dads of faith as they begin their child's journey of faith through the waters of Baptism.

Anyone feeling called to this ministry or interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve our parish family is asked to call Sister Mary Rose at 203-272-3531, or email at [srmaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org](mailto:srmaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org).

**Archbishop's Annual Appeal, Stronger Together, needs YOU...** as of this past Tuesday the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is behind just about



\$600,000 where it was at the same time last year. This money is vital to the many ministries the Archdiocese does in our name. As you are aware, this is a very personal interest of mine as

the Chairman of the Pastors' Advisory Committee for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. I want this appeal to be successful because I know firsthand the difference it makes in the life of the Archdiocese and the lives of countless individuals who are aided in so many ways through ministries and agencies supported by the Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

In Catholic theology and tradition, the local Church is the archdiocese. The Bishop, or in our case Archbishop Blair, is the successor of the apostles chosen by Pope Francis to teach, to govern, and to sanctify. He is our

Chief Shepherd in the faith.

Our parishes are very important, but they are part of a wider whole which provides amazing ministries and services across the three counties – New Haven, Litchfield, and Hartford – of our Archdiocese. Every single day our archdiocese is a support and a resource to the parishes of the Archdiocese. Our archdiocese offers counseling services and health care ministries and educates young men for the priesthood, others for the diaconate, and lay people for ministry in their parishes. Every day, through the funds of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, the archdiocese supports organizations and non-profits in our communities who provide services to the sick, the elderly, the addicted, the hungry, and the forgotten.

Our parish goal is \$205,000.00 and as of Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> we had \$170,323.00 pledged from 533 families representing 16.68% participation! **If you haven't made a gift thus far I ask you to prayerfully consider doing so today.** Thank you for your understanding of the importance of supporting the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and the difference it makes in the lives of our brothers and sisters throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford.

**Summer Camp and Enrichment Workshops at St. Bridget School...** are you looking for summer care opportunities for your children while you are at work? **St. Bridget School offers a weekly camp for all St. Bridget School students as well as all Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish children from grade PreK3 through grade 3 and Enrichment Workshops for all students grades 4-8.**

This camp will run from June 27<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>.



This year we will have a half-day option from 9am-12n, and a full-day option from 9am-3pm, and the special Enrichment Workshop will run from 9am-12n. Pick one, two, or as many as you like.

Summer camp themes this year will be *Awesome Animals, Outdoor Exploration,*

*The Legend of Habbomock (Sleeping Giant), Out of this World: An Outer Space Journey, Adventures with the Avengers, and a Vacation Bible School: Noah's Ark.*

Enrichment Workshops this year will be *Spanish Culture and Language, Cooking Fun, and Magnificent Math.*

For more information please contact Christina Cummings at St. Bridget School at 203-272-5860 or [ccummings@stbridgetschool.org](mailto:ccummings@stbridgetschool.org).

**We are holding another poster contest! It is that time of year again, believe it or not, when we need to prepare for our annual parish Christmas card.** We are looking for children of all ages to design our parish Christmas card. The past couple of years we have been so impressed with the artwork our young people have submitted for consideration. Each year that we have used artwork for our Christmas card I hear from so many how they look forward to receiving our parish card.



We invite all school aged children to think of Christmas and send us their design. The winner's artwork will be the cover of our parish Christmas card which is sent to all parishioners and friends of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish. All artwork must be submitted to the rectory by June 30<sup>th</sup> for consideration! We look forward to many submissions!

**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 Roman*

*SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH—WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT*

ST. BRIDGET CHURCH  
175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT

ST. THOMAS BECKET CHURCH  
435 North Brooksvale Road, Cheshire, CT



Join our  
Online Faith Community

**FOLLOW US**

Get Updates | Grow in Faith  
Experience Fellowship

-  @stbridgetofswedenparish
-  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 Yateco, 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](mailto:rectory@cheshirecatholic.org)
- Bulletin Submissions ..... [office@cheshirecatholic.org](mailto:office@cheshirecatholic.org)
- Social Media ..... [communications@cheshirecatholic.org](mailto:communications@cheshirecatholic.org)
- Mailing Address.....175 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

**The St. Bridget School HSA  
presents two  
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!



**Our collection for the week of May 15th**

Collected

- Offertory ..... \$10,303.00
- Mother’s Day (addl).....\$355.00

Online

- Offertory .....\$7,493.72
- Mother’s Day ..... \$95.00

**Thank you for your kind generosity!**



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

The Rectory Office will be closed on Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day. On Tuesday, May 31st the office will only be open from 8:30am to 12:00pm.

# MASS INTENTIONS



## Saturday, May 21st

9:00 a.m. SBC	Sheila O'Reilly—In Living Prayer	The Haensel Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Michael Torello	Judy Keane
5:15 p.m. STBC	Edward & Kathleen Fitzpatrick	The Family

## Sunday, May 22nd: Sixth Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. SBC	Lorraine Genest	David & Stephanie Genest
9:00 a.m. SBC	Harris B. Towne, III	The Banti Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	Paul Gerencser	His Family
4:00 p.m. SBC	Al Ferraro	Wife, Gladys, & Family

## Monday, May 23rd

7:00 a.m. SBC	Francis Havrilla	Bill & Sandy Walsh
9:00 a.m. SBC	Charles & Catherine Hobson	The Family

## Tuesday, May 24th

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

## Wednesday, May 25th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Seamon Molkenbuhr	The Molkenbuhr Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Theresa Della Selva	The Family
7:00 p.m. SBC	Norma Thompson	The Family

## Thursday, May 26th: The Ascension of the Lord

7:00 a.m. SBC	Patrick Oliver O'Connell	His Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	School Mass—John Geary	Family
5:00 p.m. STBC	Special Intention	

## Friday, May 27th

7:00 a.m. SBC	Philip Calabrese	His Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Albert Devine	The Family

## Saturday, May 28th

9:00 a.m. SBC	Ralph Mancini, Jr.	The Fuoco, LaBaire & Tarini Families
4:00 p.m. SBC	Eileen & Henry Grehl	Maureen Murray & Family
5:15 p.m. STBC	Edward & Marion Halpin	The Chamberlain Family

## Sunday, May 29th: Seventh Sunday of Easter

7:30 a.m. SBC	Hugh & John McGovern	The Family
9:00 a.m. SBC	Yvonne Asprelli	The Banti Family
10:30 a.m. SBC	George Finance	The Larkin Family

There will be NO 4pm Sunday Mass after May 22nd.

The 4pm Sunday Mass will resume on September 25th.



*Are you looking for a Mass for a special date, but it's already taken?*

**Consider reserving the Tabernacle Candle instead!**

*The candle will burn for the entire week for your intention.*

*To reserve the candle at either church for a living or deceased loved one, call the rectory at 203-272-3531.*

*The Tabernacle candle offering is \$25.*



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

III Darrick Chekas & Jennie Flavell  
I Shaun Bowman & Jessica Solotruk

*The Tabernacle candle at St. Bridget Church shines this week for Carl Iaccarino Requested by the Romania Family*



*The Tabernacle candle at St. Thomas Becket Church shines this week for Dolly Maratea & Joe Ferry, Sr. Requested by the Family*

# In-Person Services THIS WEEK

## Mass Schedule This Week:

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

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

**Rosary**  
 Mondays 1:30pm—STBC

NOTE: Masks are optional 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](http://www.cheshirecatholic.org), on YouTube <https://bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel> or Facebook [@stbridgetofswedenparish](https://www.facebook.com/stbridgetofswedenparish)

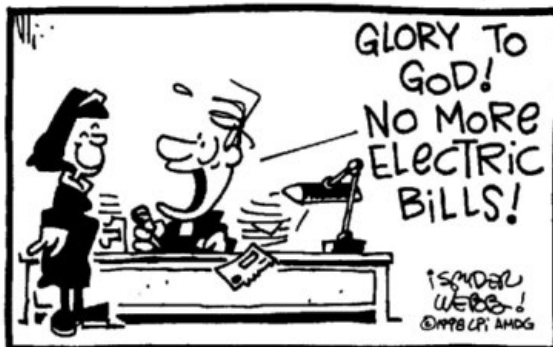
**What & Why**  
 Join Regis O'Neill and a new guest each week for 'What and Why,' a long-form show where we discuss WHAT the Church teaches on particular issues and WHY it's taught! Come and learn more about (and be able to defend) your Catholic faith! New episodes every Friday at 10am

**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 Sebastian**

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>

## 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Summer Experiences for Children and Youth

Would you like your children to have a land-based experience? The Franciscan Life Center is offering two *Franciscan Land-based Experiences* this summer. Monday-Friday, June 27 to July 1, and July 25 to 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at 405 Allen Avenue, Meriden, CT. Activities are gardening, animal and environmental care, sports, campfire bread making, arts and crafts.

We also offer a *Youth Leadership Program* for boys and girls transitioning from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school (13-14 years of age). This program is the week of June 27 to July 1 on the campus of the Franciscan Life Center, 271 Finch Avenue, Meriden. Under the direction of Thomas Finn, Ph.D., the youth will engage in confidence and team building activities promoting leadership skills, self-esteem, and communication.

You may register at [www.flcenter.org](http://www.flcenter.org) or call 203-237-8084.



## Today is the Sixth Sunday of Easter

The readings for today can be found at <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052222.cfm>

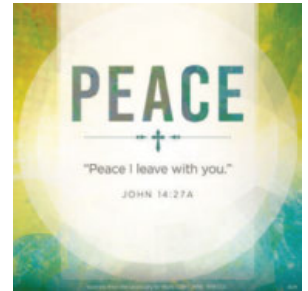
This portion of John's Gospel comes near the end of the first of four chapters that make up Jesus' long farewell discourse at the Last Supper. This section of chapter 14 actually sums up the themes of the opening of the discourse: the Christian's life is not shaped by Jesus' absence but by God's abiding presence; God's presence overcomes anxiety about God's absence; and the present holds in it the seeds of a fresh future shaped by love, not fear.

These verses also contain a glimpse of some of the other themes of the farewell discourse: Jesus' relationship with the Father and the disciples' relationship to Jesus connect the disciples to the Father as well. Jesus promises to send an Advocate or intercessor who will remind the disciples of everything that Jesus taught them and bring them peace.

Jesus is preparing his disciples in advance for his absence so that they will continue to believe in him and not feel all alone after his return to the Father. After the initial excitement of his Easter appearances, Jesus will remain with his followers in a very different way throughout the centuries.

As our celebration of the Easter season is coming to an end, the liturgy reminds us that Jesus remains with us through the Holy Spirit, who teaches us everything we need to know, reminds us of all that Jesus taught, and brings us peace.

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)



## Sunday Reflection "Living In Love" — [bit.ly/3LsjvH](http://bit.ly/3LsjvH)

**JOIN THE CHURCH CHOIR**

**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](mailto:jatwood@cheshirecatholic.org)

**Help Needed!**

Searching for medical professionals to do blood pressure screenings. Commitment is a maximum of once per month. Please contact Sister Mary Rose for more details at 203-272-3531 [smaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org](mailto:smaryrose@cheshirecatholic.org)

the Ascension of the LORD  
holy day of obligation

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Wednesday, May 25  
7pm Vigil Mass in St. Bridget Church

Thursday, May 26  
7am & 9am Mass in St. Bridget Church  
5pm Mass in St. Thomas Becket Church



# St. Bridget School Update

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

**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!

Spaces are Now Limited in Certain Programs! Each week is a new adventure. Please visit our website or call us for more information and registration forms.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the voting for the ion BANK Community Awards Program. For the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row, we were awarded a grant, which will be put towards supplies needed in the classroom.



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

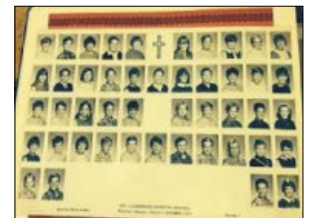


## Come and See Why We Educate Students From Over 20 Cities & Towns!

Please visit us to experience our approach to educating the whole child in faith, body and mind within an innovative faith-enriched environment. We offer a Spanish Language Program beginning in PK-3 through Grade 8, differentiated learning at all grade levels, Archdiocesan Curriculum Standards, an innovative Maker Space, fully air-conditioned building, 24/7 security monitoring, weekly Mass & Adoration plus much, much more. For information, or to schedule a tour, contact our Admissions Director, Christina Cummings at 203.272.5860 or email at [ccummings@stbridgetschool.org](mailto:ccummings@stbridgetschool.org).

### Calling all Alumni!

If you are a graduate of St. Bridget School, please share your story with us. Call, write or email us anytime. Better yet, come and visit!



Join our School Community

**SCHEDULE A TOUR**

Find Your Family at St. Bridget School

St. Bridget School, Cheshire  
@st\_bridget\_school  
www.stbridgetschool.org  
St. Bridget School  
171 Main Street  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
203-272-5860

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](mailto: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.



## FORMED in FAITH

We're back with Sacrament five out of seven! Only a couple more of these left, so enjoy them while they're still here! This week, we're tackling Marriage...**who better to discuss the Sacrament of Matrimony than a celibate priest and a single guy, right?** Not to worry...we had a guest on this week's video episode, so go and check it out on Facebook and YouTube!

While we said that Confirmation may be the "most misunderstood Sacrament" last week, there's quite a few people who don't understand Matrimony either! This is because marriage as a concept has secular, as well as spiritual, connotations. After all, Catholics aren't the only ones who get married, right? It is very important that we make this distinction – **we are discussing the Sacrament of Marriage, not the legal, social, or secular ideas of what marriage is.**

First and foremost, let's talk about what comes before the wedding itself. **To be married in the Catholic Church, couples must undergo some form of marriage preparation.** This could be a weekend program with other couples, a series of meetings with a priest or an experienced married couple, or some other form of preparation. Fun fact, Regis' parents have met with engaged couples for marriage preparation for many years!

While some may bristle at the idea of having to "go to class" to be married in the Church, it makes sense. **Marriage should be entered into without secrets or questions, and it's good to get things out in the open.** Debts, living habits, serious medical issues, and any number of other details should be known prior to entering into a lifelong Covenant with someone.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a Covenant. **A Covenant is a sacred bond;** the first Covenant was between God and Abraham, where the Lord promises Abraham the land of Israel, descendants as numerous as the stars, and blessings on he and his family. In the same vein, Matrimony is a Covenant between a man, a woman, and God. For this Covenant to be valid, the spouses must be free to marry (not bound by another marital obligation), freely exchange their consent, intend to marry for life, be faithful to one another, and be open to children, and give their consent in the presence of two witnesses and a properly authorized Church minister (usually a priest).

According to the Catechism (Paragraph 1603), "God himself is the author of marriage." When a man and a woman bind themselves together in this way, God blesses them and their union. **Because of the sanctity of this Covenant, "the matrimonial union of man and woman is indissoluble"** (CCC 1614).

This means that marriage is, quite literally, "til death do us part." A Sacramental marriage is a serious commitment, and it should be treated as such! This is also the reason that Catholic marriages are usually celebrated in a Catholic church. **While society views a wedding as a social or family event, we know that it is much more than that.** With this in mind, only the local Bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated outside of a church. Sorry, beach weddings!

There are two final pieces to this that we would be remiss in not mentioning: divorce and annulments. First and foremost, there is a common myth that a Catholic cannot get divorced. **This is untrue; divorce is a civil proceeding that affects a person's status in civil law, not Church law.** What *is* true is that a divorced Catholic who has not received an annulment cannot remarry in the Church or engage romantically with other people, as they are still married to their spouse in the eyes of the Church.

So, what's an annulment? **It's a declaration by the Church that the underlying marriage was never valid in the first place** due to the absence of one of the essential elements mentioned earlier being absent. Anyone can petition for one, but a marriage is considered to be valid in the Church until proven otherwise, which can make for a lengthy process. If an annulment is granted, the spouses are free to remarry within the Church.

Marriage is a sacred and beautiful thing, and its status as a vocational Sacrament shows how much the Church values it. Let's all pray for married couples, divorced couples, couples preparing for marriage, and single Catholics who feel the call to marriage. They all need it!



**Franciscan Sports Banquet  
and Silent Auction  
June 7, 2022**



The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Franciscan Sports Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 5:30 to 9:30p.m., at the Aqua Turf Club.

This event benefits the Franciscan Life Center and Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care.

Ticket Cost: \$75.00  
Sponsorships Available

For reservations, please call 203-237-8084  
or visit [flcenter.org](http://flcenter.org)



With the gift of reason, mankind is able to discover the natural law, to understand the inherent dignity in each human person. The legal law of the land must respect the natural law in order to create a just society. As Pope Francis asks: “Is it possible to be concerned for truth, to seek the truth that responds to life’s deepest meaning? What is law without the conviction, born of age-old reflection and great wisdom, that each human being is sacred and inviolable? If society is to have a future, it must respect the truth of our human dignity and submit to that truth. Murder is not wrong simply because it is socially unacceptable and punished by law, but because of a deeper conviction. This is a non-negotiable truth attained by the use of reason and accepted in conscience. A society is noble and decent, not least for its support of the pursuit of truth and its adherence to the most basic of truths (Fratelli Tutti Paragraph 207).”

However, the Bishops of the United States make it clear that, “despite the great blessings of liberty that this country offers, we must admit the plain truth that for many of our fellow citizens, who have done nothing wrong, interactions with the police are often fraught with fear and even danger. At the same time, we reject harsh rhetoric that belittles and dehumanizes law enforcement personnel who labor to keep our communities safe. With the positive changes that arose from the civil rights movement and related civil rights legislation, some may believe that racism is no longer a major affliction of our society— that it is only found in the hearts of individuals who can be dismissed as ignorant or unenlightened. But racism still profoundly affects our culture, and it has no place in the Christian heart (Open Wide Our Hearts, pp. 5-6).”

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:** *My neighbor has a couple of young children. She and her husband (he's not Catholic) manage to get their kids to religion classes, but I never see them at Mass. Is there anything I could say to encourage them to come to Mass? Or should I stay out of it?*

Dear friend in Christ,

The simple fact that this couple gets their children to religion classes is excellent. In my experience, parents who don't always practice their faith still feel drawn to make sure that their children get, at least, the basics of the faith. I believe that one thing this points to is the deep conviction God puts on the hearts of parents to do all they can to pass on the faith to their children. So bringing them to religious education is a great start. But it's not the end.

So that's where I'd start. Look for opportunities to begin simply talking about your faith. Share some positive experiences of your own with your friend. For example, if you hear a homily that stands out in your mind, look for a casual opportunity to simply say something like, "I was at church last week and the priest said this...and it was really helpful to me." When you share from your own experience it is very non-threatening to others. And if you do it in such a way that you are simply sharing your experience and not telling them what to do this may be the best way to plant the right seed that may begin to grow.

However, this may take time. So don't grow impatient with your friends. Just keep planting seeds without sounding judgmental. Sometimes it takes just the right seed to be sown at just the right time. When this combination happens you may be surprised at the results. Share openly, freely and often. If your friend wants to continue the conversation, that's great. If not, look for the next opportunity to share something from Church or about your faith.

Best, *Fr. Peter*

### *A Message from Father Peter*

#### **Laptops and Tablets for Ukraine**

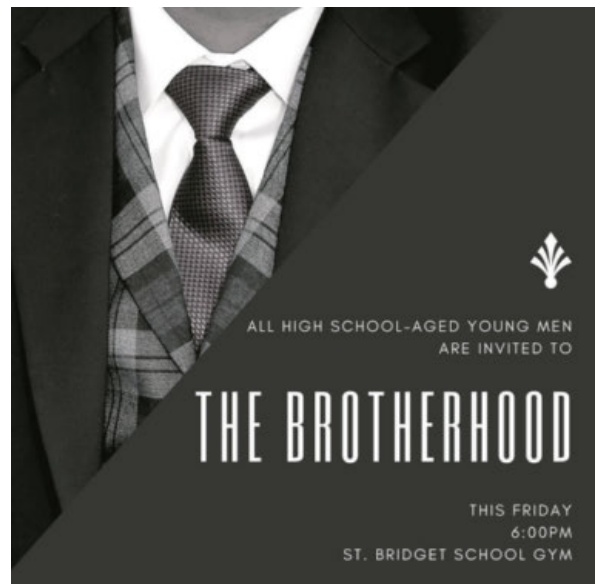
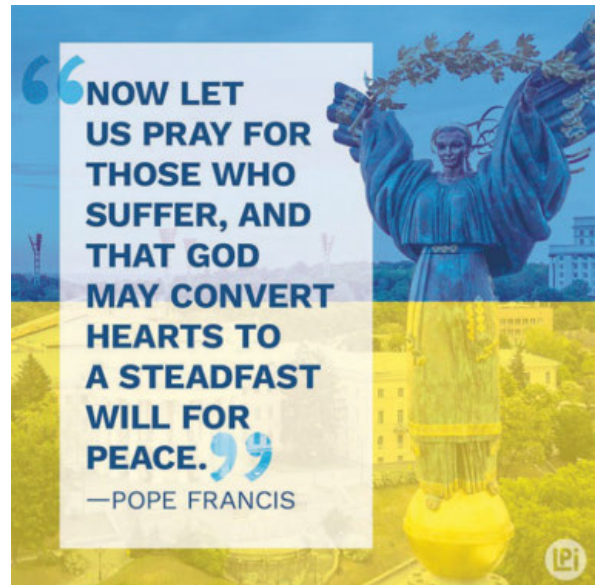


Because of war in Ukraine there are more than two million displaced Ukrainian people in Poland. They constantly need information about available resources, places to stay, new government regulations and their relatives and friends. They need to learn new skills and to find new jobs. Computer and the Internet could provide it all.

In cooperation with Guardian Angel Parish from the Diocese of Brooklyn, I am collecting new and gently used laptops, iPads and tablets to help them to make this transition. Please, be considerate; do not bring broken or extremely old items.

If you have any and you think you may donate, please bring them to the rectory office.

God bless,  
*Fr. Peter*





# Cheshire K of C KNIGHTS KORNER

Grand Knight, Jason Moliterno—[jason\\_moliterno@yahoo.com](mailto:jason_moliterno@yahoo.com)



For the first Memorial Day since the pandemic arrived and shut down many an observance, the Cheshire Memorial Day Parade is back, and our Council will march to honor our veterans as we have done for many years. While this year's parade may not be the grand march we saw pre-pandemic, it is a start and the parade committee has worked hard to bring it back.

As town residents, you can help in this revitalization by attending next Sunday along Highland Ave and South Main St (the Medal of Honor Memorial Highway) and cheer on not only the marching groups, but the veterans riding in the parade.

We also would like to extend an invitation to any fellow parishioner who is a veteran, man or woman, Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine, Coast Guard or National Guard, to join us in our march on Sunday. No walking the 1 1/2 mile parade route! Our vets will ride in open vehicles, signed with the vets name, military branch and years of service for all to see and cheer.

Interested veterans/parishioners can contact our Council Lecturer Harold Metz at [ghmetz@gmail.com](mailto:ghmetz@gmail.com). He is coordinating the effort and is also the one to take complaints if we can't find enough convertibles or open pickups. Send him an email and let us cheer you on next Sunday!



## STRONGER TOGETHER

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal changes lives through service. In addition to assisting the underserved of our communities, your gift helps those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Your gift to the Appeal is an investment in the future of our Church and our faith. Please continue to pray for an increase of vocations, especially in the Archdiocese of Hartford.



Thank you to the parish families who have made a gift or pledge to the 2022 Archbishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider a gift today. Be assured every dollar of your gift will have a positive impact in someone's life.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>.



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High School Youth Group

Next meeting:  
Wednesday  
May 25th  
6:30-8:30pm  
SBS Gym  
End of School

**Saint of the Week:** *Saint Bede the Venerable*

**Bio:** Saint Bede the Venerable was born around the year 672. When he was a young boy, he was entrusted to the care of the abbot of the Monastery of St. Paul, Jarrow. Through careful study, he became proficient in many learned disciplines, and remained committed to learning, writing, and teaching until his death. He wrote 45 books, 30 of which were commentaries on the Bible. His most well-known work is *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, but he is also reported to have worked for many years on a now-lost translation of the Gospel of John. He is said to have finished translating the last verse on his deathbed, immediately sitting up, praying the Glory Be, and dying peacefully after in the year 725. Saint Bede the Venerable, pray for us!

**Verse of the Week** 2 Timothy 2:5

“Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules.”



## 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  
 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](mailto:office@stbridgetcheshire.org) with the names of family & friends who are on active duty. Please provide name and branch of service. In this way, our whole parish community can help bring them home safely by our prayers.



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

- jarred pasta sauce
- bottled juice
- deodorant
- laundry detergent
- mayonnaise
- ketchup

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!**

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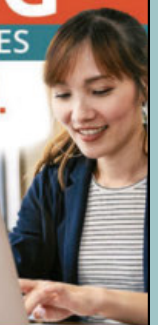
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