

# Saint Brigid Parish

## SENIOR NEWSLETTER

October 2020



**Hello Everyone!**

We hope this Newsletter finds you doing well!

We miss not being able to see you at our Senior Luncheon!

### WE HAVE A PLAN!

1. Dress in a Halloween costume or Halloween colors.
2. Take a picture. (Need help? Let us know!)
3. Send your picture to me or Bev and Gerry by Oct. 26.  
(Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter!)

We will share in next month's newsletter!



**ENJOY pictures from past Halloween Luncheons! Love the memories!**





2014



2017



## Can non-Catholics Receive Communion?

*Messages from our clergy!*

Dear friends,

Can a non-Catholic Christian receive communion at Mass? The most accurate answer to this question is not a simple “no” or “yes” but “it depends.”

Let me start with a simple statement of Catholic belief about the Eucharist. In every celebration of Mass, we believe that the gifts of bread and wine are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the Body and Blood of Christ. This is sometimes called the Real Presence, in other words, not just a remembrance of what Jesus did at the Last Supper, or not just a symbol, as some other non-Catholic religions believe, but the actual presence of Christ. We believe as Catholics that Jesus really meant what he said in chapter 6 of John’s gospel.

There are two aspects to participation in the Eucharist: one is as a sign of unity and the other is as a cause of unity. It would be accurate to say that the Catholic tradition has put an emphasis on Eucharist as a sign of unity. Other non-Catholic traditions who celebrate the Eucharist put the emphasis on cause of unity. Sadly, the mainline Christian traditions, while sharing a common belief on many core aspects of the Christian faith such as the Trinity, interpretation of Scripture, and baptism, do not have a shared belief about what the Eucharist is. For that reason, we believe it is dishonest to invite non-Catholic Christians to share in the Eucharist at Mass when we do not have a shared belief about what it is. Nevertheless, there are exceptions which allow a non-Catholic Christian to receive the Eucharist at Mass.

One exception involves Christians from any of the Eastern Orthodox traditions (e.g., Greek, Russian), which believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. And, while there is not full communion between the Catholic and Orthodox faiths, we recognize their sacraments as valid, and they can at their initiative participate in the Catholic sacraments of penance, Eucharist and anointing of the sick.

Exceptions for Christians of other non-Eastern Orthodox traditions (e.g., Episcopalian, Lutheran) are more restrictive when it comes to being able to receive the Eucharist: danger of death or other grave necessity where they cannot approach a minister of their own community and they manifest faith in the Catholic understanding of the sacrament.

I or any other priest, for reasons discussed above, cannot invite non-Catholic Christians to receive the Eucharist at Mass. I am aware of the reality of non-Catholic Christians who do believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and choose in conscience on their own initiative to come forward at Mass and to receive communion. I do not believe it is appropriate for me to refuse to give them communion in such a circumstance. This situation would call for a conversation with the person outside of Mass about the belief of the Catholic Church regarding the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Steve Callahan



## Do Not Despair

– Deacon Mike Daniels

2020 has been a year of great turmoil. The pandemic we have been battling has made us realize that life has been deceptively easy until now. This monster has awakened us to our frailty and reminded us how perilous life is. This wakeup call may have a silver lining whose timing couldn’t be better.

The past four years in America have been some of the most combative and, frankly, embarrassing in our history. Political leaders on both sides of the aisle have displayed a vanity that has nearly extinguished all civility and wisdom; it has left the American public anxious and divided. The pilgrims brought to America a biblical tradition that should have prepared us to realize that turmoil need not mark the end. Tumult often signals the beginning of something new. God has always called people to renewal in challenging times.

Great struggles produce great clarity. As people of faith, we should know better than most that God can work in any event; that the trials and challenges of life can lead to rebirth. This virus is a call to us to open our hearts and be reminded of who we are, children of God. It’s a call to renew our relationship with the almighty.

God has witnessed every challenge throughout human history and always stands ready to welcome us to his friendship. Psalm 94 says: "Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer." Do not despair; God is waiting for us to turn to Him so He can renew us, so He can heal us. The best is yet to come! (September 19, 2020 post from Deacon Mike’s Blog, Simply Catholic)



# AT SAINT BRIGID

## Walking Group!

### Friday Walking Group

9:30am

ALL invited to join! Meet at 9:30am at St Brigid parking lot. We will, of course, conform to social distancing and face covering guidelines.

- Carol (619) 227-7500



## Mass Times

**Inside the church:** Saturdays at 5:30 pm and Sundays at 7:30 and 11 am and 5:30 pm. We also celebrate daily Mass in the church Monday through Saturday at 7:30 am.

**Outdoors:** Join us in our parking lot for 9 am Mass. Bring a chair and sunscreen.

**Online:** View the livestream Mass at 5:30 pm on Saturday or watch the recording anytime.

Whether you join us in the church or the parking lot, for the comfort and safety of all, we ask you to be mindful of the following:

- Wear your mask or facial covering.
- Maintain the social distancing guidelines of 6-feet plus.
- Follow the guidance of the Ministers of Hospitality.

*Love and continued prayers.*

### Nancy Wesseln

Senior Ministry

[nancy@saintbrigidparish.org](mailto:nancy@saintbrigidparish.org)

(858) 483-3030 ext.109, (858) 483-3034

### Bev and Gerry Greer

Home Support Ministry

(858) 997-5278

### Need Prayer?—How can we pray for you?

Please call 858.483.3030 with any prayer intentions. If you'd like a return call from one of the members of our prayer team, please indicate that on your message!

### Mailing Address

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4735 Cass Street

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