

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the cooperation of all of those who have been attending Mass in person, and to all of those who have helped to make it possible—especially the ushers, cleaners, and sanitizers. There are many of you, and I hope to eventually acknowledge everyone by name, but if I try to do that today, I will inevitably miss someone. I would, however, like to publicly acknowledge Anina Pabros, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty by sanitizing the church and setting the pews every Saturday (for several months with her mother Nancy, and more recently with Patty Hume). Anina also assists with sanitizing mid-day on Sunday. It is truly edifying to see a young person who is so reliable. I also wish to thank Sam DeFazio in Bergen for receiving and carrying the baton from his wife Barb DeFazio, of happy memory, as our main caretaker of the parish plant in Bergen. We know that, with Sam and through Sam, Barb continues to serve us at St. Brigid from the other side. The DeFazios have been and continue to be a great gift to our parish community.

## WEEKLY MASS RESERVATIONS

We also appreciate all of you who have made the effort to make reservations at Our Lady of Mercy. At St. Brigid, it has not been necessary, since there are enough ushers to make the process of seating go quickly and smoothly. However, at Our Lady of Mercy, the reservations make seating much easier for the ushers. A friendly reminder that reservations are to be made by calling or texting (585) 709-2764 or emailing the request to [events@ourladyofmercyleroy.org](mailto:events@ourladyofmercyleroy.org) before 5pm on Friday. Please remember that if you do not email, text, or call in your reservation on the designated reservation line by 5:00pm on Friday—you do not have a reservation. If you call first thing Saturday morning—you do not have a reservation. If you call Father Matthew or Father Ken or the Office or someone other than the events line or email—you do not have a reservation. In most cases we should be able to seat those without reservations. Those without reservations can expect to be seated in the window sections, starting with the most forward available seats. Any standing reservation will be removed if there is a no-show without a cancellation.

## CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

As most of you know, we printed 80 tickets for each of the two vigil Masses at St. Brigid. At the time that I am writing this, **all those tickets have been claimed**. Despite our best efforts, it might not be possible to LIVESTREAM from St. Brigid's, however, we will strive to post (Christmas Eve) on YOUTUBE a recording of one of the Vigil Masses from St. Brigid.

There is still plenty of space available for all Christmas Masses Our Lady of Mercy, but we encourage you make a reservation by **5pm on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** to ensure there will be a place for you. To make certain that we can properly prepare the seating list for the ushers, after that time, no reservations will be accepted. If any Masses reach capacity before that time, we will do our best to get the word out. You are still welcome to come, but please know that without a reservation there is a possibility that we may not have an available seat. If you do make a reservation, please honor it. If there is some sort of emergency between the reservation deadline and the Christmas Mass, and you are unable to attend, please text or call Fr. Matthew's cell phone at 585-615-3138 so he can mark the seat available for "walk-ups."

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 13, 2020

WATCH

### SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA: A STUDY IN PERSEVERANCE

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



LISTEN

### THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift—the gift of his Son to the world.

THE MYSTERY  
OF  
CHRISTMAS

FR. LARRY RICHARDS

To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish.

## STREAMING & HOLY COMMUNION ON CHRISTMAS

Although all the Christmas Masses at Our Lady of Mercy will be LIVESTREAMED on Facebook and YouTube, for those participating from the Livestream, **Holy Communion will only be offered for 45 minutes following the 7:15am Mass on Christmas Morning.** For Sunday Masses, I have been asking you, in good conscience, to only receive Holy Communion immediately following the Mass in which you participated via the STREAM. At Christmas, if you are properly disposed to receive Holy Communion [and have observed the one hour fast beforehand] I invite you to receive communion Christmas morning following the 7:15 Mass, even if you participated online in a Vigil Masses or Midnight Mass (it does not *have* to be OLM). However, if you did not pray along with Mass at home beforehand, out of respect, please just make a Spiritual Communion.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE & SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Although the dispensation from Sundays and Holy Days continue, there will be a Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God on Thursday evening at 7pm at St. Brigid, as well as Masses at 7:15am and 10:45am on New Year's Day. Also on New Year's Eve, there will be Confessions at 8:00pm and a Holy Hour at 9:00pm at Our Lady of Mercy to thank the Lord for blessings received in 2020, (or to thank Him that it's over) and ask for His blessings in 2021. The Holy Hour will end with the traditional chanting of the *Te Deum*.

## PRUDENCE WITH PALMS



As you well know, Palm Sunday 2020 was amid the height of the pandemic uncertainty. You will also remember that the parishes of our diocese we were not permitted to distribute the blessed palms. In fairness, at that time, there was even more uncertainty and fear over how COVID-19 was spread. We did our best to keep the palms hydrated and cool for when the church was open again. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, as the pandemic lockdown dragged on, mold began to grow on the palms. We had to dry them out and save them for burning. It was a great disappointment to most of us, and is making me, your pastor, leery about the next Holy Week.

Each year, we must submit our palm orders before the end of the calendar year. This year, our order must be in by December 28. Since this has been a challenging year for both parishes financially, and as to not have any unnecessary waste, we are trying to be more accurate in our palm order. Therefore, I am asking you to please fill out the following form and place in one of the collection boxes in the Church. When the palms are received, we will prepare bundles (of about 5 per household unless otherwise indicated for larger households), and work out the procedure for the blessing and distributing of palms to you, adapting to the situation as it occurs on Palm Sunday, 2021. We will order some extra, of course, but will most likely not order as many as we have in the past. Thank you for your cooperation. Of course, if you purchase your own decorative palm branches (or weaves) or olive branches and bring them to Mass on Palm Sunday, they will be blessed. Now is the time to plan. Thank you and God Bless.

*Fr. Matthew H. Phelan, O. de M.*

HOUSEHOLD NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME OF HOUSEHOLD CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE and/or LAND LINE \_\_\_\_\_

*If you need more than the 5 palm strips please indicate below:*

NUMBER OF EXTRA PALMS STRIPS (IF NEEDED) \_\_\_\_\_