First Holy Communion at St. Bridget

Congratulations to Ramona Gant, Raylan Gant, and Emmett Thornsberry who received their First Holy Communion on Wednesday, July 15, 2020. May you receive a lifetime of Holy Communions and carry Jesus with you in all that you do.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we have had some blazing hot and humid days, we are challenged in this week’s Gospel as well: the weeds and the wheat growing together. The sower is Jesus Christ, and the good seed is His Truths that we are taught in our beloved Church that He founded, the Catholic Faith, that are sown in our souls. The enemy is the Devil, and the weeds are his lies that he constantly tempts us with. Living in this world as we do, we grow with both God’s Truth and are always tempted with the Devil’s lies.

A good soul farms good seed to grow wheat, and this man’s enemy comes and sowed weeds in with the wheat. Both plants grew, and their root system is such that if the weeds are pulled the wheat will be ruined after pulling out the weeds.
The good seed is God's Truth. The weeds are the lies that the Devil keeps whispering to us and so many souls. Both the weeds and the wheat grow up together until harvest time. We too grow up in this world with God's Truth and also the Devil's lies surrounding us. The testament of who we listened to more comes at the end of our lives. If we listened to the Devil's lies (weeds), then we will be burned. If we listened and adhered to God's Truth, we will be collected as the wheat was, but collected into the host of angels and the communion of saints in heaven.

The news has been packed with many examples of generations worth of people who liked the weeds, the Devil's lies, more than God's salvific Truth. It is why we are hearing so much evil and negativity in our contemporary world.

It is good to examine ourselves. As I continue to live in this world, to what am I growing closer, the wheat (God's salvific Truth) or the weeds (the Devil's lies)?

It is one reason why the Catholic Church emphasizes an examination of conscience at night before going to bed. This is when a soul examines their day and sees when they have sinned, including both sins of commission and omission. An examination of conscience helps us to see if we are growing more with the Devil's lies or with God's Truth. Then we make an act of contrition prayer to show our sorrow for our faults. It helps a soul to sleep more soundly at night.

We also get to congratulate three of our children this week as they celebrated their First Holy Communion this past Wednesday! These children desperately desired to receive our Lord in Holy Communion. It was a beautiful evening for them for such a sacred moment.

God bless you all and be safe with this hot weather. May Mother Mary keep you safe.

In Christo et Maria,

Father Vogel
Pastor
**Mass Intentions**

16th Week in Ordinary Time

**Tuesday, July 21**  
+ Pam Stobart by Gary and Katy Crabtree

**Wednesday, July 22**  
St. Mary Magdalene + Eva Richardson by Ann Seibolt

**Thursday, July 23**  
+ Kathryn Kennedy by The Kennedy Family

**Saturday, July 25**  
+ Katherine Rolwes by Tim and Laura Long

**Sunday, July 26** - 17th Sun. in Ord. Time
For parishioners of St. Bridget Parish

**Gifts to God and Church**

Through July 16, 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Bridget Envelopes</td>
<td>$4074.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dream Fund</td>
<td>$428.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Group</td>
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<td>Votive Candles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Collection (Christmas)</td>
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*Dream Fund MTD $1810.50*

**Sign up for Electronic Giving**

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**Fall at St. Bridget**

Much of what parish life will look like in the fall remains unknown. August is just around the corner and is when things would normally begin to ramp up again. The diocese has yet to issue guidelines for things like School of Religion. For now, please keep this in mind:

- **School of Religion**: Registration will begin early in August as opposed to later in the month as in the past.
- **Confirmation**: Registration will begin in early August for those in 9th grade and above who have a background of religious education (SOR, Catholic school, homeschool).
- **RCIA**: If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or joining the Catholic Church, please contact Father Vogel as soon as possible. Classes have begun.
- **High School and Middle School Youth Ministry** will begin in the fall.
- **Men’s Group and Friday Bible Study** will continue.
- **Women of Faith** will resume. Details regarding location and day of week TBD.
- **AutumnFest** has been canceled. That definitely cannot happen as social distancing will not be possible and will still be necessary. Another outdoor activity for parishioners is being considered. More information on that later.

Please pray for St. Bridget and those involved with the various programs and leadership roles. Augmenting our faith outside of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is important to our spiritual growth. When parishioners share their time and talents in good stewardship, these ministries move forward in ways that encourage conversion and discipleship.

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**Final weekend: Knights of Columbus Love Fund Collection**

This is the last weekend you can contribute through the Knights of Columbus to the Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy Love Fund. Your contribution will double with the Knights matching your donation with up to $500 in donations. Please drop a check made out to "Knights of Columbus" (or cash) in the collection basket at church.
Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass
For those of you touting the golden goodies this year as you celebrate your 50th wedding anniversary, sad news about the diocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass. Bishop Johnston has requested that the Mass be cancelled due to the ongoing issues of the coronavirus. He is concerned for your health. He would like for you to send your names to the parish office so that we can forward them to the diocese. We know who some of you are, but there may be some stealth jubilarians out there. If you were married in 1970, please let us know.

School Supply Drive
Many families will struggle even more this year to provide for their children’s school supplies. Often, we take for granted the ability to afford things such as crayons and pencils when there are others who have no means to give their children the supplies they need. We are collecting backpacks and essential supplies to offer to schools in the lowest income areas of the KCSJ Diocese. This year's tax-free school supply shopping in Missouri runs from August 7-9. For more information or to give a gift of a backpack filled with supplies, please contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager at nbutters@ccharities.com or 816-659-8266.

Reflection: Unity with Jesus is Unity with Others
The Church is glorious for many reasons. One glorious aspect of the Church is the unity found within it. It’s true that there is, at times, much internal disunity, hurt and disorder of every kind. But these are not qualities of the Church. These are the effects of the sins of Her members. The Church Herself is the Spotless Bride of Christ. And the more we enter into union with Christ Jesus, the more fully we are a member of this glorious Church. By uniting ourselves to Christ we unite ourselves to the Holy Father. And by uniting ourselves to the Holy Father, we unite ourselves to St. Peter, all the Apostles and all the saints who are living and in Heaven. We become mystically united with Christians throughout the world and our prayer and adoration of God becomes one song of praise rising to the glory of Heaven. And as we unite ourselves, through our unity with Christ, we receive the overabundance of Mercy from God making us one (See Diary #1044).

Do you see yourself as a member of the one Body of Christ? Do you understand that you are called to share in the unity that comes from your union with Him? Loving Jesus with your whole mind, heart, soul and strength brings about a profound love for others. If it does not, then it is not authentic love of God. Reflect upon the effect that your love of God has on your relationship with others. Let your love of God affect you in such a way that you discover an outpouring of love for all people, especially those within the Church. And let that love reveal the deep bond of unity that is established as a result. Unity is glorious. It is a central blessing flowing from the Church and a sign of the Mercy of God.

Lord, help me to always live in union with You and with others. May my love for You overflow into my love for others, especially those who are members of Your Church. I love You, dear Lord, and I trust in You. (This free reflection can be found at the parish office or mail it in. Thank you for your generosity.)
Reflections by Father Paul Turner
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Romans 8:26-27

Praying Hard

There are many ways to pray. When alone, we might pray in silence, or meditate on verses from the Bible, or say the rosary, or read from a prayer book. When with others, we may pray before a meal, bow our heads during an invocation, or join in the Mass.

On some days prayer seems less satisfying. It is hard to concentrate. We are distracted by our surroundings or by the affairs of the day. The words do not make much sense. Or we are just too tired.

Those troublesome days come, but there are other days when prayer works. We feel drawn into the presence of God. The songs truly give praise. Our needs prompt us to call upon God more directly. The faith of others inspires us. We may feel discouraged by a lesser prayer once we have experienced all that prayer could be.

Even when we cannot pray the way we wish, our prayer still pleases God. When you do something for someone you love, you may not always have the right words, and you may not always select the perfect gift, but the beloved knows what is in your heart.

St. Paul tells the Romans, “The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought.” The Spirit intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.

If we do not feel like prayer, all we have to do is try. The Spirit will take it from there.
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements are due via e-mail by Monday of week of distribution.

PRAYER REQUESTS
If you wish to be added to the prayer chain, please contact Roberta Klein at (816) 540-5980

NEW PARISHIONERS
Welcome! Please register after Mass using the registration form in the vestibule, download form from our web site, or contact the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM
Parent preparation session is required. Please call the parish office prior to the birth

ANOINTING OF SICK
As requested after Mass and by appointment

CONFIRMATION
Program for high school students, according to Diocesan guidelines

MARRIAGE
Please call the parish office when engaged. A nine-month preparation period is required (diocesan policy). One party should be a registered, attending parishioner.

2020 SECOND COLLECTIONS

Aug. 2: DREAM Fund
Aug. 15: THE ASSUMPTION
Aug. 16: Diocesan Life & Justice
Sept. 6: DREAM Fund
Sept. 20: Church in Latin America
Oct. 4: DREAM Fund
Oct. 18: Mission Sunday
Nov. 1: ALL SAINTS DAY
Nov. 1: DREAM Fund
Dec 6.: DREAM Fund
Dec. 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Dec. 13: Religious Retirement
Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS

ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
Chair: Ross Dale..........charleenrd@comcast.net
Gary Crabtree..........garycrabtree@comcast.net
Greg Dustman..........grd21@hotmail.com
Joe Fiedler..........jacomojpe@comcast.net
Robert Radmacher..........radbroex@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Rick Kitchell......rickkitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Rita Pilcher........ritapilcher@gmail.com
Bill Ruth....................pandbruth@yahoo.com
Melissa Thornsberry......irish_girl@7979@yahoo.com
Bob Dostal...............bsdos@comcast.net
Mark Bock..................markcbock@sbcglobal.net

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at
(816) 812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Services Coordinator, Kathleen Chastain, at (816) 392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.