Dear Friends in Christ,

"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it." Our Lord has had us focusing on the Kingdom of heaven over the last few weekends in our Gospel readings. The takeaway I think we can take away from this Gospel is how the Mass is that pearl of great price because the Kingdom of heaven comes to us at Holy Mass.

If we could see the invisible world around us, like seeing the angels for example, we would be astonished at what happens at Mass. Myriads of angels are present, and the Most Holy Trinity comes to us at the Consecration over the bread and wine, changing both substances...
into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Dr. Scott Hahn put it in one of his books that I cannot recall the title of, "Wherever the King is, there is the Kingdom." Our King is present in the Eucharist, thus we encounter the Kingdom of Heaven among us.

It goes without saying that the Mass is a treasure, a treasure that many of us took for granted and we didn't appreciate until the lock down. I pray that we may grow in our understanding of the Mass, this treasure, this pearl of great price. As we continue to learn more about the Mass, our appreciation and love for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and for our God will only increase by leaps and bounds.

Let us examine more closely what happens at Mass, helping us to love the Kingdom of Heaven that comes to us in our parish churches.

*In Christo et Maria,*

Father Vogel
Pastor

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**Liturgy Ministers**

**THIS WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**
Server: Tavin Glass
Ushers: Tim Long, April Riley
Rosary Leader: TBA
Music: Caitlin Long, David Bremer

**SUNDAY, JULY 26**
Server: Aidan Fleischmann
Ushers: Mark Bock, Henry Saubers
Rosary Leader: TBA
Music: Renee Edenburn, Daniel Yung

**NEXT WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**
Server: Leland Edenburny
Ushers: Guy Emhoff, Henry Saubers
Rosary Leader: TBD
Music: TBD, Judy Wolf

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**
Server: Curtiss and Ryan Schaller
Ushers: Bill Kennedy, Mark Bock
Rosary Leader: TBD
Music: TBD, Daniel Yung

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**Mass Intentions**

*17th Week in Ordinary Time*
**Tuesday, July 28** + Bill Cassidy by Kathy Meyer
**Wednesday, July 29** + Mary Ellen Munsterman by the Brownsberger Family
**Thursday, July 30** + Margaret Rowe, mother of Fr. Charles Rowe
**Saturday, August 1** + Dee Burnett by Mary Ann Batliner

**Gifts to God and Church**

*Through July 19, 2020*
St. Bridget Envelopes...................$5106.24
Dream Fund......................................650.00
Youth Group......................................11.00
Votive Candles.....................................0.00
Special Collection (Christmas).............0.00

*Dream Fund MTD $2460.50*

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**Visit our website**

**Diocesan Coronavirus Updates**
Altar & Rosary Society Meeting
The Altar and Rosary Society will meet at 6:30 p.m. on August 6th, with a rosary at 6:00 p.m., in the basement of the Education Building. Masks are required. Cemetery responsibility for August is Rita Pilcher. Altar cloths & laundry responsibility is Marijo O'Malley.

Magnificat Trial Subscription for $5.00 - 6 months; offer ends July 31st
As we continue to seek ways to help you establish a new rhythm of liturgy, worship, and parish life in our current COVID reality, you are encouraged to adopt the habit of using a personal missalette for both liturgical and personal prayer. The regular parish missalettes are available for you to take home and keep. However, an outstanding resource is Magnificat, which is perfect to use as your daily prayer companion as well as for Mass. With this in mind, Magnificat is offering the following special $5 trial subscription. It's a good way to check it out and decide if it's something you like.

Special Trial Subscription Offer to Magnificat Choose one of the offers below for only $5

[Click here](#) for 3 months of print edition, with digital access included (phone app is awesome!)
[Click here](#) for 6 months of digital edition only (New American Bible Lectionary)
[Click here](#) for 3 months of print edition of MagnifiKid! (children's edition)

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.
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.

Pleasant Hill Food Pantry
The food pantry is in need of the following items:
Crackers
Peanut butter
Spaghetti sauce
Mixed vegetables
Ramen noodles
You may bring these items to church and place them in the wagon at the top of the steps in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity and caring for the poor as Jesus tells us to.

Missourians to Vote on Amendment 2 for Medicaid Expansion Aug. 4
The King will answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:40

The Missouri Catholic Conference, in an effort to uphold the dignity of the human person in accord with Catholic social teaching, is lending its support to Amendment 2, a ballot initiative which would expand Missouri’s Medicaid program to provide health insurance coverage to low-income Missouri citizens currently living without it.

Bishop James V. Johnston, Jr. of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph joins the other bishops of the Missouri Catholic Conference in support of Amendment 2. We encourage you to review the informational flyer provided by the MCC, and share the information with your parish community, neighbors and friends in Missouri. You can find additional resources including videos and printable flyers on the MCC website.
In response to concerns raised about the risk of funds being diverted to anti-life activities, please note that the Hyde Amendment protects against this. For more info, see the MCC flyer.

Missourians will vote on Amendment 2 on August 4, 2020.

Planned Giving
Your gifts to your church are a testimony to your faith and the confidence you have in your church. Both lifetime gifts and testamentary (those that are given through your will) express your feelings in a meaningful way. We've seen how Mary Margaret Ledwidge and Nelson Gipson have blessed our parish financially by including us in their wills. Please consider St. Bridget as you plan your estate. Contact Tim Long, Business Manager, in the office for more information. "A Parishioners Guide to Planned Giving"

Diocesan Special Collections Amendments
Due to COVID-19, there have been changes to the second collection schedule for the rest of the year.

1. The usual missionary visit will not take place for the safety of the missionaries. The diocese is taking up a collection to distribute to these missions that would normally have the opportunity to share about the work they are doing. This weekend, August 2, the "Special Missionary Cooperation Plan" will be taken up. Or, in fine COVID fashion, will be included in the basket that is on the table in the vestibule. Please write "Mission" on your check and place it in an envelope if you can, but it is not necessary.

2. Because we did not have in-church Masses over the Easter weekend, we did not have the opportunity to take up the collection for the Holy Land (Good Friday) or Peter's Pence. Some of you sent in your donations for those anyhow, and we thank you for that. The Holy Land collection is September 13; Peter's Pence is October 4.

Thank you for your consideration.

2nd Annual “In His Real Presence” Eucharistic Congress

Friday and Saturday September 11th and 12th, 2020
Our Lady of Guadalupe
St. Joseph, MO

Friday Family Night Registration: FREE, registration required. Register here.
Saturday Registration: $10.00 before August 15; $15.00 after Aug. 15 (includes lunch) Register here.
Day of Prayer for Farm Animals

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph has established a new day of prayer, based on Catholic traditions of Rogation days and rooted in biblical respect for all life given by our Creator. In spring our Diocesan Day of Prayer sought God’s blessing on the plants of the earth and those who nurture them. We blessed seeds, preparing for the growing season: “At Seedtime” (Feb. 4).

As summer moves towards fall and state fairs happen, we ask blessing for the animals of the earth, especially those who provide nourishment for our tables and are part of human agriculture. On Monday, August 3rd, our Diocesan Day of Prayer: “Blessing of Farm Animals” will take place at St. Rose of Lima Church, Savannah, at 7:00 p.m. Abbot Benedict Neenan, O.S.B. of Conception Abbey will preside. Owners may leave animals in trailers or lead them outside on a rope. No reservations necessary. All are welcome.

“If the farmer is blessed with a good harvest, the city dweller has plenty of good food; if the city dweller makes a living wage, he or she can buy the farmer’s food. It is this universal dependence of the members of Christ’s Body on one another that makes the blessing of the farmer a blessing also for the city dweller. It is faith that traces the origin of good food beyond the...grocery store to the shipper---beyond the shipper to the farmers whose job it is to produce food, and beyond the farmer to God the Creator.... So it is fitting for the man or woman in the city...as well as the farmer in the little rural church to pray together....”

(Family Sacramentals: Walter Sullivan, O.S.B.)

Job Openings at Catholic Charities

Could your career stand a fresh beginning?

If your career is not as rewarding as you had hoped, perhaps you should consider a refreshing change of course. At Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, we’re searching for employees seeking to rejoice and to blossom in God’s work. This is the work we undertake every day. Benefits include a compressed work week, Monday through Thursday. Positions currently available are: In-Home Care Coordinator, Annual Appeals Manager and Administrative Assistant in the Welcome Center. To view job descriptions or apply, go to our website at www.catholiccharities-kcsj.org. For more information contact Lynn Lichte, Human Resources Manager at 816-659-8220 or llichte@ccharities.com.

Reflection: The Fortress of Peace

The peace of the Lord is like a fortress in which we must take refuge from all the outer attacks from the evil one. Outside of this fortress we are exposed to all of these malicious attacks. The darts of anger, oppression, deceit and envy can do us great damage without the sacred
protection of the Peace of God. But within the walls of this fortress, the Lord protects us from all that seeks to do us harm. Seek refuge in the Lord’s Mercy and allow it to form a barrier of peace, protecting you from the evils of the world. Do not allow these attacks to penetrate this barrier; rather, remain content with the Lord and allow Him to work on you within the safety of His place of refuge (See Diary #1067).

What is it that seeks to destroy your peace? What shakes you and disturbs you from within? Know that the Lord wants to protect you and to give you refuge. Seek His peace. Seek Him and He will give you His peace. Peace is a gift that is beyond description and human comprehension. It’s a place of safety that will shield your soul from the daily vices and attacks of the evil one. Do you know the Lord’s peace? Are your eyes firmly fixed on this gift of His Mercy? Seek Jesus with all your heart and you will, indeed, know His peace. And in the shelter of that peace, the Lord will do great things to you, if you let Him.

Lord, I entrust to You the protection of my soul. I give to You all of my inner longings, hopes, desires and weaknesses. Please come and form a barrier of protection around me so that I may meet You in this sanctuary within. I thank You for the love of Your Mercy that envelops me and produces sweetness and strength. I love You, my Lord, and entrust myself to Your perfect care. Jesus, I trust in You. (This free reflection can be found at: https://divinemercy.life/2020/07/22/reflection-205-the-fortress-of-peace-2/)

Reflections by Father Paul Turner
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Romans 8:28-30

Good at Faith

If you are good at what you do for a living, you know the joy of being the right person for the right job. Sometimes we grow into the task we have been given. Other times it seems as though we have been predestined for it all along. Somehow the skills we possess and the experiences we have had all led up to the person we are and the job we do.

Throughout our lives we get better at being Christian. We develop skills for prayer, love, service, and understanding. We use them to please God and build up the community. We also experience the joys and depths of the spiritual life. Life’s successes and losses have refined our image of God and the church, making us more mature in faith.

St. Paul tells the Romans that God knew them long ago and predestined them to be conformed to the Son’s image, “so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

In God we are predestined, called, justified, and glorified. God knew us from the beginning, called us into service, justified us for salvation, and glorified us in eternal life. As we journey through life, we realize that God knew some things about us long before we did. God knew what tools we would need for the place and time we live. We have hope that God is still working with us and will help us with whatever challenges lie ahead. The reward of glory awaits those who are good at the task of faith.
**MASS TIMES**
- Saturday 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday 8:00 a.m.
- Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
- St. Bridget Church and St. Bridget Facebook Page

**CONFESSON**
- Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
- Tuesday 8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.
- Wednesday 5:25 p.m. - 5:55 p.m.
- Thursday 8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.
- Thursday 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- And by appointment
- Ledwidge Hall

**ADORATION**
- Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Fifth Friday 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 4:45 p.m.

**CONFESSION**
- Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
- Tuesday 8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.
- Wednesday 5:25 p.m. - 5:55 p.m.
- Thursday 8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m.
- Thursday 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.
- And by appointment
- Ledwidge Hall

**ADORATION**
- Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Fifth Friday 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 4:45 p.m.

**ROSARY**
- 20 min. prior to weekend Masses
- and 8:25 a.m. on Tuesday

**OFFICE HOURS**
- Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**PHONE** (816) 540-4563 **E-MAIL** stbridgetparish@stbridgetph.org

**PARISH STAFF**
- Father Curt Vogel, Pastor
- Tim Long, Business and Operations Manager
- Linda Ochs, Parish Secretary
- Mel Thornsberry, Director of Youth Religious Education and Middle School EDGE Program
- Matt and Penni Warner, High School Youth Directors
- Kaitlin Long, Music Director
- Henry Saubers, Custodian
- Kathleen Chastain, Victims Services Coordinator (816) 392-0011
- Joseph Crayon, Ombudsman (816) 812-2500

**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

**2020 SECOND COLLECTIONS**
- Aug. 2: DREAM Fund
- Aug 2: Special Missionary Cooperation Plan
- Aug. 16: Diocesan Life & Justice
- Sept. 6: DREAM Fund
- Sept. 13: Holy Land (Good Friday)
- Sept.20: Church in Latin America
- Oct. 4: DREAM Fund
- Oct. 4: Peter's Pence
- Oct. 18: Mission Sunday (USCCB)
- Nov. 1: ALL SAINTS DAY
- Nov. 1: DREAM Fund
- Dec 6.: DREAM Fund
- Dec. 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- Dec.13: Religious Retirement
The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting 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.