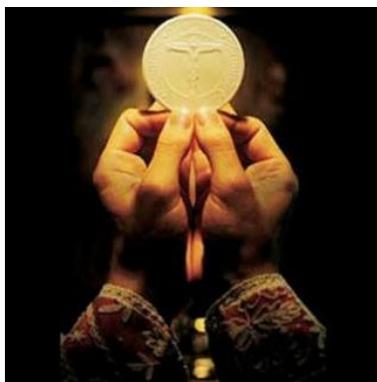
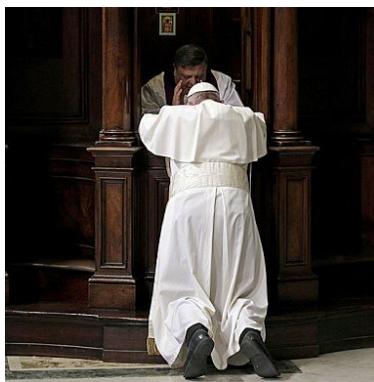


Staying Connected While Apart

[Web Site Connections Page](#) #CatholicsAtHome



Divine Mercy Sunday Mass 9 am  
[St. Patrick's Facebook Page](#)



Confessions 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.  
Ledwidge Hall



Adoration 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
St. Bridget Church

**COVID-19 Update: Suspension of public Masses extended**

Suspension of Public Masses is continued to May 15, 2020, unless retracted, for Kansas City, North Kansas City, and Jackson County. Unless restricted by the local county or city government, *other jurisdictions have the suspension of Public Masses through at least **May 3, 2020**; though these cities and counties may become additionally extended by either civic government or the Office of the Bishop.* Given how both counties (Cass and Johnson) in which our parishes reside in have followed suit with Kansas City, it would seem that our public Masses will be suspended through May 15, 2020. We will keep an eye on this to see when the counties will lift restrictions.



Dear Friends in Christ,

Public Masses have been suspended, and we continue to see how strong our faith in God really is, especially on Divine Mercy Sunday. E-mails this past week have given you insight into the marvelous wonder of God's Mercy for us on this Sunday during the Easter Season. My hope for you all is that you take advantage of God's

Mercy, most especially in the Sacrament of Confession.

Our new "normal" has greatly affected a large number of people. If you know of someone in need, please contact the parish office because parishioners have come up to me expressing how they are willing and ready to help if there is a need amongst our fellow Man.

Divine Mercy Sunday is the day that one gets to reflect to themselves how much they

either take advantage of God's Mercy or take it for granted. It is a day for one's soul to be softened in the penetrating heart of our Lord. We hear of the Sacrament of Confession being created in today's gospel by our same Lord, Jesus Christ. The least isolated sacrament when it was once the most sought after sacrament, examine your soul and ask God in your prayers, "Lord, do I take your mercy seriously enough? Or am I letting my pride get in the way, and this is why I have not gone to Confession for many months or years?"

Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, is the day that God has worked miracles in softening hardened hearts. Allow God's Grace to enter into your soul, give Him your sins in the Sacrament of Confession, and simply let His sacrificial and risen love envelope you as only the Divine can do. The best part? It only takes 2-5 minutes for your soul to be saved in the Sacrament of Confession...so why wait?

Know of my continued prayers for you all. I cannot wait for the day when we can all finally be present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass together in our parishes. May St. Patrick and St. Bridget pray for you all, Mother Mary keep you hidden in her mantel, your Guardian Angel protect you from all harm, and God bless you and your families.  
*In Christo et Maria,*

Father Vogel

[St. Bridget Facebook Page](#)

[St. Patrick's Facebook Page](#)

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
(816) 540-4563

#### **PARISH STAFF**

[Father Curt Vogel](#), Pastoral Administrator

[Tim Long](#), Business Manager

[Linda Ochs](#), Parish Secretary

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

[Mel Thornsberry](#), Director of Youth Religious Education and Middle School EDGE Program

[Matt and Penni Warner](#), High School Youth Directors

Kathleen Chastain, Victims Services Coordinator (816) 392-0011

[Joseph Crayon](#), Ombudsman (816) 812-2500

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

All live streamed liturgies and devotions on Facebook are also posted on the [St. Bridget YouTube Channel](#).



[Diocesan Coronavirus Updates](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Coronavirus Updates from Rome](#)

#### **Mass Intentions**

Sunday, April 19 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

**For Parishioners of St. Bridget and St. Patrick's Parishes**

Tuesday, April 21 **+Bill Cassidy** by Gary and Katy Crabtree

Wednesday, April 22 **+Poor Souls in**

**Purgatory**

Thursday, April 23 **+Mary Alice Grimm**

#### **Gifts to God and Church**

Totals for week ending April 12, 2020

St. Bridget Parish: \$2856.67

Dream Fund: \$110.00

Youth Group: \$0.00

Votive Candle \$0.00

Special Collection Easter: \$753.00

Special Collection Cath. Relief: \$65.00

Special Collection Holy Land: \$144.00

Notes from the Business Manager: The new COVID-19 world we live in.

If yours are like my own e-mail boxes, everyone one under the sun has sent you notices about “how we’re dealing with COVID-19 and how we are here for you...” blah, blah, blah. I don’t think I can handle any more virus updates. Having said that, well, here’s



one from your parish Business Manager with just a few bullet points to ponder:

- We begin with a profound and heartfelt “Thank you, Muchas Gracias, Danke Schön, Nia:wen (Mohawk), Molte grazie (Italian) and finally, Go raibh maith agaibh (Irish Gaelic). The parish is grateful to everyone who continues to make sure their donations are received at the parish either via electronic giving or hand/mail delivery of your parish envelopes. May God bless you for your efforts and your generosity. We are grateful for your support.
- Staffing is very limited at the parish offices. We try very hard to be available to help and function as normally as possible. Tim us usually present on site with Fr. Vogel and Linda working as much as possible remotely. We appreciate your patience.
- Church doors remain open for visits during the day if someone is on site. We ask that visitors to please use the center aisle and remain between the markers on the pews so that cleaning/disinfecting can be completed regularly and easily. If you visit, please use the hand sanitizer as you enter and exit and please use the wipes to wipe down where you have visited. It is heart warming to see more traffic at church throughout the week. The Lord gets lonely too and appreciates the conversations. Using good judgement and proper distancing, visits to church are welcomed.
- St. Bridget Parish has applied for the Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program. A local bank, Community Bank of Pleasant Hill, accepted our application even though we do not do our usual banking operations with them. They made the process very clear, easy to follow, and worked diligently to fund our loan application. The loan application was submitted on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the loan amount was funded on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. With guidance from the diocesan legal, HR, and Finance team members, we were able to wade through the murky waters and successfully navigate obtaining funds. These funds will provide much needed support to keep all our staff paid for a period of time. We have also taken the necessary steps to track the funds so that when the time comes, we may apply to have the loan 100% forgiven.
- At the recommendation of the diocesan Finance Office, all capital projects should be put on hold for the immediate future. Thus, for time being until we see how the situation plays out, we will put on hold our Ledwidge Hall renovations, parking lot repair, and digital signage projects. We will not abandon these projects, just put on hold until we have a more thorough understanding of the financial impact COVID-19 will have on the parish.
- The diocese has provided all parishes with a “bridge financial plan.” The plan allows parishes to be forgiven the cathedraticum amounts (the monthly tax we pay to the diocese,) and a 25% reduction in property/casualty insurance premiums for the months of April and May. This bridge plan saves the parish significantly over the next two months. The amounts are “forgiven” and will not have to be repaid. We will evaluate our cash flow regularly to assess our position. The diocese has provided for other avenues of funding if parishes need longer-term help, but we do not anticipate having to access the options. Barring any heavy unforeseen burdens at the parish.
- Evaluating our financial status, the SBA Loan/grant, the diocesan bridge plan, and the continued support of the parishioners of St. Bridget, we feel that St. Bridget parish is positioned well to weather the virus storm and continue to provide the best possible services to our church community.

These are new experiences for each of us and we do recognize that our lives have changed. Our new “normal” daily life will change when we move beyond the

pandemic. Please stay safe, practice proper CDC protocols for taking care of yourselves and others. We are here for you and your physical and spiritual needs if we can be of assistance. While we do things differently now, we remain the church that Jesus Christ founded with his apostles 2020 years ago.

Vivat Jesus,

Blessings to you,

Tim Long

Business and Operations Manager

While The Catholic Key has suspended publication at this time, please visit the web site of the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph for the most current information, columns, coronavirus updates and other news from around the diocese.  
<https://kcsj catholic.org/>



## Reflection: Revealing Your Soul in Confession



God sends to us His representatives in the person of His priests. Though priests are not perfect, they are God's representatives nonetheless. This is especially true in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It's essential that we approach that Sacrament with confidence and honesty. We must allow the confessor to see the sin in our souls so that he can enter, cleanse and heal by the sacred power of absolution

(See *Diary* #494-496).

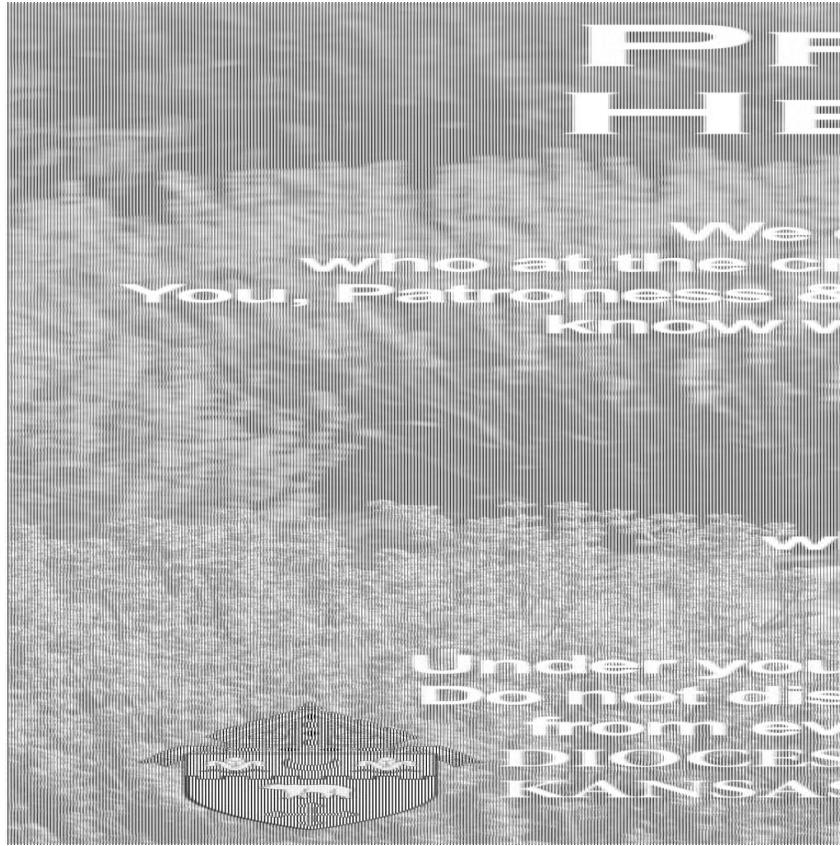
Do you go to confession? If so, how often? Do you clean your house more often than you clean your soul? The Lord has given you an immeasurable gift in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He invites you to receive this gift with an open heart. Do not fear this invitation; rather, run to it with eager anticipation of the many graces our Lord wishes to bestow. And do so as regularly as you can.

*Lord, why do I fear Your Mercy as it is bestowed through the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Why do I fear Your sacred Mercy poured forth through the act of absolution? Give me courage and humility so that I may confess my sins clearly and completely and so be cleansed and restored to Your Heart. Jesus, I trust in You* (This reflection can be found at: <https://divinemercy.life/2020/04/15/reflection-107-revealing-your-soul-in-confession-2/>).



Help *Outpace Poverty*, with Catholic Charities during the month of May when we host a (*Virtual*) 5K Run/Walk that benefits our work in addressing poverty. Many of the features you have enjoyed in the past will remain the same, only we will not necessarily all be in one place, at one time. Instead, we will ask our team members to participate individually or if together, maintaining at least the 6 ft. suggested social distance. The funds raised by this event have taken on heightened importance: at-risk families are struggling even more in these anxious and uncertain times. They may have lost wages or even their employment due to restaurant, retail and venue closures. School closures may mean that their children have lost food security as part of their educational day. And an unfortunate number will deal with the actual illness. We are seeing a large increase in requests for assistance, and we will be there to answer the need. You can be part of that answer by registering at [www.outpacepoverty.org](http://www.outpacepoverty.org). The registration fee of \$25 includes a t-shirt. Please

contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager, with questions or help registering at [nbutters@ccharities.com](mailto:nbutters@ccharities.com) or 816-659-8266.



Thank you to our sponsors. Please support them as you can.

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