Dear Friends in Christ,

We all continue our journey through Lent with Palm Sunday this weekend, but we enter into the solemn time that is Holy Week. The meaning of our lives and the meaning of our Lord's sacrificial love for us all hits us to the core this week as we enter into Palm/Passion Sunday. We will soon enter into the Sacred Triduum, the three holiest days in the whole year, as we enter into Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.

This week, Holy Week, gives deeper significance to Easter. As a monk once told me in the seminary, there is no Resurrection without the Crucifixion. The Suffering and Death had to happen first before the Glory of Easter. This is shown in our own lives. We have to suffer through a lot in life, but at times we get to see the reward to some of our suffering. However, that reward is nothing compared to us suffering now and having the hope of entering into Paradise in the next life.

None of this would have been possible except for the sacred mysteries that we recall and live out during Holy Week. It is interesting how these days are the most sacred, yet they are not Holy Days of Obligation, but everything that is central to us as Catholics culminates in these sacred days. Holy Thursday, the Institution of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ and the Institution of the Eucharist along with the call to Fraternal Charity. Good Friday, the most sorrowful day in our history with the Death of our Lord on the Cross in His Crucifixion. Easter, the wait of everything is over, the Devil is turned upon his head, and Jesus Christ walks out as the King that He is Who has conquered everything that once gave such fear to Man in
conquering both sin and death. And yet, how few Catholics attend these liturgies. Maybe this year is different since we now are forced to "tune in" to our phones, computers, or TVs to watch our Masses. It's an amazing moment for us, Holy Week. It's what our souls yearn for if only we let God in.

Lent is soon coming to a close. Easter is around the corner. This Holy Week is already different from times past because we are all at home. How about this Holy Week is in fact the holiest Holy Week you have had yet by "tuning" in to these Sacred Mysteries and moments from Holy Thursday through Easter. Be safe, know I am praying for you all. May Mother Mary keep you safe, and Godspeed.

*In Christo et Maria,*

Father Vogel

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The insert that would normally go in the printed bulletin on Palm Sunday titled *Sacrifice of Praise* can be found [here](#). There are beautiful Lenten and Holy Week prayer reflections.

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

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**Bishop Johnston has issued the following directives regarding Holy Week:**

For all three services, the priest may celebrate a private Mass with or without up to four asymptomatic adults assisting with the vital ministries. Additional details are below along with parish information about Holy Week liturgies.

**Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m.**

Mass will be live streamed on [St. Patrick's Facebook Page](#). Palms will be blessed, but will *not* be distributed to anyone for everyone’s health and safety until a later date determined by Bishop Johnston. Please stay tuned to your emails for that notification.
Holy Thursday 7:00 p.m.  
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Mass will be live streamed on St. Patrick's Facebook Page.

The foot washing option and procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of repose following Mass will be omitted.

Good Friday 7:00 p.m.  
Passion of the Lord

The liturgy will be live streamed on St. Bridget's Facebook Page. There will be no kissing or touching of the cross during the Adoration of the Holy Cross.

Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m.

Mass will be live streamed on St. Patrick's Facebook Page. The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil with the blessing of the fire and procession will be omitted. The Mass will consist of the lighting of the Paschal Candle, Easter Proclamation (Exultet), Liturgy of the Word, the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Mass will be live streamed on St. Bridget's Facebook Page.

Mass will be offered as usual.

Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Good Friday.

Scholarship Applications due

Good Friday is the deadline for both the
Friday and Easter Monday in observance of Easter.

**Mass Intentions**

**Sunday, April 5** (Palm Sunday)
For Parishioners of St. Patrick's and St. Bridget

**Tuesday, April 7**  + Rosemarie Edwards
by Gary and Katy Crabtree

**Wednesday, April 8**  + Mae Ring
by Gary and Katy Crabtree

**Thursday, April 9** (Holy Thursday)  + Patty Ruth
by Gary and Katy Crabtree

**Saturday, April 11** (Holy Saturday)  + Francis Baldwin
by Butch and Nancy Shore (St. Patrick's)

**Sunday, April 12** (Easter)
For Parishioners of St. Bridget and St. Patrick's

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**Daily Mass Readings**

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**Thank you**

Our parishioners at St. Bridget are wonderful! Thank you for stepping up and mailing or bringing in your regular donations. Please remember that your tithe is based on a percentage of your income. Changes in income would be reflected in your tithe. We encourage you to sign up for electronic giving. It is easy and convenient. Click on the button below to begin the process.

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**Gifts to God and Church**

**Totals for week ending March 29, 2020**

St. Bridget Parish: $6,831.44
Dream Fund: $158.00
Youth Group: $3.00
Votive Candle $18.00
Special Collection (Easter) $305.00
Special Collection (Cath. Relief Serv.) $71.00

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**Nelson Gipson Scholarship and the Knights of Columbus Scholarship.**

Nelson Gipson Scholarship is $500 given by the Altar Society. The Knights of Columbus Scholarship is $1,000. Both scholarship applications are available on the home page of the parish web site, in the vestibule and in the parish office.

- The Nelson Gipson Scholarship application is due to the Altar Society at the parish office on **April 10, 2020**.
- The Knights of Columbus Scholarship application must be completed and placed in a sealed envelope (do not write on the envelope) and placed in the drop-box located in St. Bridget’s church vestibule by **April 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**. This envelope can also be mailed to the parish office *inside another envelope* marked "Attn: K of C Scholarship application". The anonymous envelope will be passed on to the Knights.

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**Resources**

There are an endless number of web sites that will keep you connected to your faith as well as offer things to do for your children. The bishops of the United States have developed a [web site](#) with a wealth of resources. Please check out this treasure.

#CatholicsAtHome

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**FORMED.org**

To sign up for FORMED:

Go to [FORMED](https://www.formed.org). (An app is available as well.)

Click on "sign up".

Click on "I belong to a Parish or Organization".

Type in the blank field "St Bridget". Confirm it is the correct St Bridget by making sure the address that pops up is "2103 N Lexington Rd Pleasant Hill, MO" and then click it.

Click the blue button that says "Sign Up".
Reflection: Facing the Evil One

If you wish to avoid the fierce hatred of the evil one, then refrain from striving for holiness. Satan will still hate you, but he will not hate you as much as the saint. But, of course, this is foolishness! Why would anyone avoid holiness so as to avoid the hatred of the evil one? It is true that the closer we come to God, the more the evil one will seek to destroy us. Though it’s good to be aware of this, it’s nothing to fear. In fact, attacks from the evil one should be seen as signs to us of our closeness to God (see Diary #412).

Reflect, today, upon any ways that you have felt overwhelmed by fear. Very often, this fear is the fruit of you letting the trickery and malice of the evil one affect you. Instead of letting fear affect you, allow the evil that confronts you to be the cause of your increase in faith and trust in God. Evil will either tear us down or become an opportunity for us to grow in God’s grace and strength.

Lord, fear is useless, what is needed is faith. Increase my faith, I pray, so that I will be daily under the control of Your gentle inspirations and not under the control of the fear caused by the attacks of the evil one. Jesus, I trust in You. (This reflection can be found at: https://divinemercy.life/2020/04/02/reflection-94-facing-the-evil-one-2/)

Parish Prayer

Let us draw closer to our Immaculate Mother Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by reciting the Angelus prayer at noon everyday to combat the Coronavirus.

**The Angelus:**

*The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:*

*And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.*

*Hail Mary, full of Grace...*

*And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.*

*Hail Mary, full of Grace...*

*Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

*Let us pray:*

*Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.*

*Amen.*
Diocesan Coronavirus Updates

Visit our website

Coronavirus Updates from Rome

St. Bridget Catholic Church
(816) 540-4563