PARISH STAFF
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Linda Ochs, Parish Secretary l.ochs@stbridgeph.org
Bulletins announcements due Wednesday one week prior to weekend of distribution.
Matt and Penni Warner, High School Youth Directors Maptppnn92@gmail.com
Victim Services Coordinator: Kathleen Chastain (816) 392-0011
Ombudsmans: Joseph Crayon (816) 812-2500 crayon@ombudsmankcs.org

PARISH LEADERSHIP
ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
Chairman: Ross Dale charlesrd@comcast.net
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Greg Dustman gfd21@hotmail.com
Joe Fiedler jacomoges@comcast.net
Robert Radmacher radroxx@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Rick Kitchell rickkitchell@gmail.com
Secretary: Rita Pitcher RitaPitcher@gmail.com
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Melissa Thornsberry irish gir27975@yahoo.com
Bob Dostal bddos@comcast.net
Mark Bock mbock6669@comcast.net

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GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH December 14 - 15, 2019
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Please remember our Dream Campaign. Dream Fund MTD $6628.50

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Exchanging Gifts
Romans 1:1-7

Christmas presents are gathering under trees. The opening of gifts opens hearts as well. Gifts are given in love, and they promote love in return. We love all year round, not just on Christmas Day. We may not give wrapped gifts every day of the year, but we love every day. We say it, show it, and feel it.

At Christmas we will celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the human race. It is not Christmas every day, but God is good to us every day, showing love in many and marvelous ways.

A Christmas gift of love prompts a response—a hug, a kiss, a note of thanks, or a favor in return. The greatest Christmas gift also prompts a response—a desire to live in ways that please Christ.

St. Paul calls himself an apostle “set apart for the gospel of God,” the gospel promised through the prophetic words in the Scriptures, the gospel about God’s Son, “descended from David according to the flesh.” Throughout Advent, we have heard prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus. They help us experience the full wonder of Christmas Day: that God took on flesh and was born into a human family descended from David. That is the gospel, the good news. So great was that gospel, that Paul became its apostle.

And so did we. In all we say and do, we tell others how much the Christian faith means to us. It is the natural response to the greatest gift of all.


LITURGICAL ROLES AND SERVICES December 21 and 22
LECTORS
8:00 a.m. Laura Long, Steve Himmelberg
5:00 p.m. Stephanie Dustman
8:00 a.m. Tim Long
6:00 p.m. Homebound Cathy Vogel

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
5:00 p.m. Zander Peck
8:00 a.m. Aidan Fleischmann, Wyatt Newman

SERVANTS
5:00 p.m. Chris Porter
8:00 a.m. Judy Thornsberry, Heintzelman

MONEY COUNTERS
Dec. 22 Rita’s Team

CHURCH CLEANERS
Dec. 28 Joyce W’s Team

CANTORS
5:00 p.m. Kaitlin w/ Judy
6:00 p.m. Kaitlin w/ Judy
8:00 a.m. Kaitlin w/ Judy

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LITURGICAL ROLES AND SERVICES December 28 and 29
LECTORS
5:00 p.m. Katy Crabtree, Guy Emhoff
8:00 a.m. Chris Porter, Shirley Baldwin

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
5:00 p.m. Bill Kennedy
8:00 a.m. Marj O’Malley
Homebound D. J. Brelitzbach

SERVANTS
5:00 p.m. Bill Kennedy
8:00 a.m. Bob and Shirley Baldwin

SACRISTAN
5:00 p.m. Stephanie Lewis, Mary Ann Batliner
8:00 a.m. Rick and Nancy Bouchard

USHERS
5:00 p.m. TBA
8:00 a.m. Sheehan, Saubers

MONEY COUNTERS
Dec. 29 Dan’s Team

CHURCH CLEANERS
Jan. 4 Hilda’s Team

CANTORS
5:00 p.m. Kaitlin w/ David
8:00 a.m. Kaitlin

COMMERCIAL ~ RESIDENTIAL
- ROOFING
- DECKS
- KITCHEN & DECKS
- BASEMENT FINISHING
- FIRE & SMOKE DAMAGE

Please remember our Dream Campaign. Dream Fund MTD $6628.50

REFLECTION
Drowned in God

This reflection can be found at: https://divinemercy.life/2019/12/11/reflection-345-drowned-in-god/

Do you ever soak in God? This is a rare and even non-existent experience for most people. Soaking, or drowning in God means that you become immersed so deeply in prayer that it’s as if you are lost in His presence. When this happens, the Lord fully takes you over and possesses your soul for that moment. You may not remain this way and you may soon return to your sins, but moments of pure contemplation are treasures in this life beyond anything else. It’s a way that God gives you a taste of His glory so that you are left desiring Him all the more (See Diary of Faustina #1669).

Consider the question of whether or not you have ever allowed yourself to be so drawn into the presence of God that you lose track of time and space. It’s as if you were transported to the Heart of Christ and rested in His bosom. If you have never entered this depth of prayer know that it awaits you. The Lord’s love is so deep and so perfect that, when you experience but a taste, you will be coming back for more as often as you can.

Lord, draw me into Your presence. Help me to know You and Your perfect love. Help me to experience You in perfect adoration and praise. May I receive but a glimpse of Your glory and savour that delight evermore.

Jesus, I trust in You.
**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

The “Keep Christ in Christmas” program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. It promotes the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes, and communities. It encourages us to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. Activities during the Advent season include:

- Keep Christ in Christmas posters
  - Proudly displaying a Nativity scene
  - Giving to the needy
  - Praying around your Advent wreath
  - Reading the Christmas story as a family

These activities are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope everyone will participate and truly “Keep Christ in Christmas.”

**CONFESSION:** Sunday 7:30 – 7:50 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 8:25 – 8:55 a.m.; Wednesday 5:25 – 5:55 p.m. and by appointment.

**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.

**EUCARISTICADORATION**

Every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**PRAYER CHAIN REQUEST**

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 office.

**A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Merry Christmas! A phrase that should roll right off of our lips on this Wednesday as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Now our preparation for our Lord’s birth in the Season of Advent has come to an end, the great season of Christmas has begun for the Catholic Church, ending with the Baptism of our Lord on January 11. Unlike the secular world, the Christmas Season for us as Catholics begins on Christmas day and ends in January.

Most people in the world love Christmas. Most people in the world know it’s about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Most people in the world now use the birth of Jesus Christ as a necessary side-bar to Christmas celebrations. For us as Catholics, there is only one reason to celebrate Christmas, and it’s exactly because of the Incarnation, that the Great Almighty took on human flesh in such great poverty, to grow up and teach us Truth, and dying for that Truth to redeem us and help us have so much hope for our salvation. Christmas sinks home in the depths of our souls, not because we received the best new gadget from the store, but because we are in awe of a God Who loves us so much that He wanted to become one of us.

The chorus of angels sing and welcome His birth, the shepherds came to see this new Wonder, the three Magi followed the star to bend the knee at a baby boy who would change the face of the earth. Mother Mary took her Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes for warmth in the manger. Her husband St. Joseph was ever ready to guide and protect his foster-Son in Jesus Christ. The love this Holy Family enveloped in their relationship to each other on this Holy Night is the love that brings us all together for Mass on Christmas, Christ’s Mass, on Christmas. We cherish this day due to God’s love for us as Catholics, ending with the Baptism of our Lord on January 12. Unlike the secular world, the Christmas Season for us as Catholics begins on Christmas day and ends in January.

I pray you may be able to enjoy your family this Christmas and if it be God’s Will, receive good Christmas gifts, jokes, and stories. I pray that while we will hopefully enjoy our Christmas festivities, we may never forget that the Emmanuel has come, that God is with-us, and that we can say to our Lord, “Thank you for caring and for loving me so much on this day.”

God bless you all, Mother Mary keep you safe, St. Joseph protect you, your Guardian Angel guide you, and have a Merry Christmas.

Father Vogel

**REPORTING ABUSE**

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 Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at (816) 392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

**2020 SECOND COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

Please be generous. Thank you.

Jan. 1   Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Jan. 5   DREAM Fund and Subscription Sunday for The Catholic Key
Jan. 20  Catholic Home Missions Appeal
SCHEDULE, INTENTIONS, READINGS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

No Mass

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

No Mass

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**

No Mass

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**

Midnight Mass - St. Bridget Parishioners

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**

No Mass

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26**

No Mass

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27**

No Mass

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**

No Mass

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

No Mass

**DAILY ANTIPHONS**

**SATURDAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 - 22**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf. Is 45: 8

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,* and let the clouds rain down the just one;
*let the earth be opened and bring forth a savior.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Is 7: 14

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;* and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 (NO MASS)**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed;
and who spread the words of life through all the world.
*Or: Sir 15: 5*

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** Jn 1: 14, 16

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,*
and from his fullness we have all received.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

4:30 p.m. | Rosary | Mass

5:00 p.m. | Mass |

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22**

7:30 - 7:50 a.m. | Confession |

7:30 a.m. | Rosary |

8:00 a.m. | Mass |

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE**

4:00 p.m. | Mass |

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 23**

No Mass

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

4:00 p.m. | Mass |

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**

No Mass

**FRIYDAY, DECEMBER 27**

No Mass

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28**

4:30 p.m. | Rosary |

5:00 p.m. | Mass |

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

7:30 - 7:50 a.m. | Confession |

7:30 a.m. | Rosary |

8:00 a.m. | Mass |

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

Dec. 23 | Office closes at 3:00 p.m.

Dec. 24-25 | Office closed

Dec. 31 | Office closes at 3:00 p.m.

Jan. 1 | Office closed

**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

The deadline for announcements for the Dec. 28/29 bulletin is Monday, Dec. 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

**ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY**

There will be no meeting of the Altar and Rosary Society in January.

**PARISH ANGEL TREE**

Thank you very much for your participation in the Angel Tree Project. Your generosity is overwhelming. We truly appreciate your continued support of this rewarding project.