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December 8 - 9, 2019
2nd Sunday of Advent

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Phone: (816) 540-4563 | Fax (816) 540-2162
www.stbridgetph.wecomnect.com | stbridgetparish@stbridgetph.org

MSS TIMES
Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and
Sunday at 8:00 a.m.
Monday and Friday No Mass
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days: please consult bulletin

CONFESION: 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.

EUCHARISTICADORATION
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) 540-3980.

NEW PARISHIONERS
Welcome! Please register after Mass using the registration form in the vestibule, download form from our web site, or contact the office.
Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 11:1-10  The Jesse Tree

Today’s first reading invited the Advent custom of the Jesse tree. During Advent some households read stories from the Bible about the people and events that led up to the birth of Jesus. Those who hear the stories create depictions of them and hang these on a tree. The idea of decorating a tree comes from Isaiah’s prophecy that “a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.” A “Jesse tree” reminds us of God’s marvelous plan for salvation.

The entire passage is filled with words of comfort. The shoot sprouting from Jesse is to be a leader filled with God’s spirit—a spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord. The reign of that ruler will even bring peace to animals. The lamb will host the wolf. The calf and young lion will be the playmates of a child.

Because Jesse was the father of David, the prophecy foretells an idealized time under a great king. When Christians hear this prophecy during Advent, we look farther down Jesse’s lineage all the way to Jesus. Jesus was anointed with God’s spirit and brought together around a common belief in God’s mercy.

The Jesse tree does not stop growing with Jesus. It continues with us. Through the new birth of baptism and the anointing of confirmation, God has filled us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are anointed, like Jesus, to be agents of peace.


PARISH LEADERSHIP

ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
Chairman: Ross Dale charleed@comcast.net
Gary Crabtree garycrabtree@comcast.net
Greg Dustman grdf21@hotmail.com
Joe Fedler jasonoojo@comcast.net
Robert Radmacher radbroex@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Rick Kitchell rickkitchell@gmail.com

ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
Chairman: Ross Dale charleed@comcast.net
Gary Crabtree garycrabtree@comcast.net
Greg Dustman grdf21@hotmail.com
Joe Fedler jasonoojo@comcast.net
Robert Radmacher radbroex@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Rick Kitchell rickkitchell@gmail.com

SECRETARY:
Rita Placher rittaplicher@gmail.com

MEMBERS:
Bill Ruth pandbruth@yahoo.com
Melissa Thorsenberry irish_girls79@yahoo.com
Bob Dostal bdsdos@comcast.net
Mark Beck markbeck@sbglobal.net

Church Cleaners

December 7 and 8

LECTORS
5:00 p.m. Rita Jones, Ann Siebolt
8:00 a.m. Lori Merrigan, April Riley

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
5:00 p.m. Pat Devoil
8:00 a.m. Cathy Vogel
Homebound D.J. Breithbach

SERVERS
5:00 p.m. Leland Eshburn
8:00 a.m. Bret Guede, John Glasmann

ROSARY LEADERS
5:00 p.m. Mike and Arlene Case
8:00 a.m. Rita Plcher and Ed Medlock

SACRISTAN
5:00 p.m. Ross and Nancy Bouchard
8:00 a.m. Don and Cathy Vogel

CURIOUS CLEANSERS
5:00 p.m. Rick and Nancy Bouchard
8:00 a.m. Don and Cathy Vogel

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
5:00 p.m. Cindy Glass
8:00 a.m. Sharon O’Hanlon
Homebound Marj O’Malley

SERVERS
5:00 p.m. Tavin Glass
8:00 a.m. Curtis and Ryan Schaller

ROSARY LEADERS
5:00 p.m. Rick and Nancy Bouchard
8:00 a.m. Barry Schaller

SACRISTAN
5:00 p.m. Ross and Charlotte Dale
8:00 a.m. Ross and Nancy Bouchard

CURIOUS CLEANSERS
5:00 p.m. TBA
8:00 a.m. Himmelberg, Himmelberg

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GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH
November 30 and December 1, 2019

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Please remember our Dream Campaign. Dream Fund MTD: $832.50

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 22nd when we will be decorating the church for Christmas following 8:00 a.m. Mass. Many hands make for light work. Your help is appreciated.

THE FOOD PANTRY is in need of the following food items for the Christmas boxes. You may leave your items in the vestibule. Thank you for your generosity.

- Canned yams, frosting, cranberry sauce, box potatoes, Jello, cornbread mix, gravy, chicken broth, Stove Top stuffing.

The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS are sponsoring a food drive to be held during the month of December. We are following the national program called “Food for Families”. We will collect food during all weekend Masses during December. The goal of “Food for Families” is to ensure that as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. Many in our community are struggling through hardship and unable to provide food for their families. The Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through this program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward that end.

PLEASANT HILL HAY CLERGY ANGEL TREE

The Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy yearly sponsors an “Angel Tree” for the wider communities of Pleasant Hill, East Lynne and Strasburg. It is separate from our Parish Angel Tree. If you know a family that needs help for Christmas, please direct them to the Thrift Store or Food Pantry to pick up a form by 11/22/19. During the week of Thanksgiving the “Angel Tree” will be at City Hall. Those wishing to adopt child(ren) may pick up an “Angel” and a letter with information. The last day to return gifts to City Hall is 12/14. Any questions, please call Marj O’Malley at (816) 520-4232.
REFLECTION: Forever Forgiving

(https://divinemercy.life/2019/12/01/reflection-335-forever-forgiving/)

One of the hardest things to do in life is to pray for those who persecute you and to treat them with the utmost respect and compassion. But what benefit is there in hating them or lashing out at them? Doing this “harm” to them is far more damaging to your own soul than to theirs. Forgive, forgive, and forgive again. In fact, forgiving another is a form of God’s justice in that it reveals that another is in need of forgiveness and dispels the vicious power of their malice in your life. Forgive them, pray for them and entrust them to the Mercy of God. By doing this you will have great peace in your soul (See Diary #1628).

Is there anyone in life that you hate? Or anyone that you are at least tempted to have much anger toward? If so, reflect upon this person today and make the conscious choice to forgive them. Though your feelings may not immediately follow this choice, you will begin to find peace in this decision. Forgive them over and over as long as anger remains and the Lord will prune that vice from your life replacing it with His joy.

Lord, in Your great Mercy You have forgiven me for malice in your life. Forgive them, pray for them and forgive again. But what benefit is there in hating them or suspecting sexual abuse.

REPORTING ABUSE

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) 812-2550 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.

PARISH ANGEL TREE

Thank you very much for your participation in the Angel Tree Project. Your generosity is overwhelming and wonderful. A few gift tags remain if you would like to help Santa purchase a gift for a local child sponsored by St. Bridget. Please place packages (wrapped or unwrapped) with the Ornament tag in the Christmas Box by the Angel Tree as soon as possible. Again, thank you so much for your continued generosity.

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES

2019-20 Second Collections Schedule

Please be generous. Thank you.

Dec. 8 Religious Retirement
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

ADVENTPenance Services

All Penance Services are at 7:00 p.m. unless indicated otherwise.

Tue. Dec. 10 St. Patrick’s, Holden
Sun. Dec. 15 Presentation, Lee’s Summit, 6:30 pm
Tue. Dec. 17 Holy Spirit, Lee’s Summit
Wed. Dec. 18 St. Robert Bellarmine, Blue Springs
Thur. Dec. 19 Our Lady of Lourdes, Harrisonville
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 8
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Program
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

Monday, December 9
No Mass

Tuesday, December 10
8:25 - 8:55 a.m. Confession
8:25 a.m. Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 11
5:25 - 5:55 p.m. Confession
6:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. SOR beginning with Mass
6:30 p.m. Women of Faith
6:30 p.m. That Man Is You

Thursday, December 12
8:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
7:05 p.m. Knights of Columbus rosary
7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus meeting

Friday, December 13
No Mass
9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study

Saturday, December 14
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, December 15
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Program
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group

PARISH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER
Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Our annual Parish Christmas Program and Dinner is this coming Sunday. We will begin our Christmas event with our SOR children’s Christmas Pageant at 5 p.m. in the church followed immediately by our Parish Christmas dinner (approximately at 5:15 p.m.) in Ledwidge Hall and the arrival of our very special North Pole guest. Our parish Christmas dinner is a wonderful and a well-attended event for our parish family & friends, especially with the children’s program. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule for those who plan to attend. Our special North Pole guest will arrive in Ledwidge Hall during dinner where he will visit with the children. There is no cost for this event and all parishioners are welcomed. All we ask is that you bring a side dish & dessert to share (large enough to feed a family of four to six). We will provide the turkey and ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, and drinks. If you have any questions please, contact Rita Pitcher.

Attention Children: The Knights of Columbus are encouraging kids ages 7 – 14 to make a poster that promotes the idea to “Keep Christ in Christmas.” Posters can be any size, either drawn or colored or painted. Posters should be turned in at the back of church on Saturday and Sunday December 14-15 (next weekend). All those who turn in a poster will receive a free “Keep Christ in Christmas” car/ refrigerator magnet. Posters will be displayed in Ledwidge Hall on Sunday December 15 at the Parish Christmas Program & Dinner. Please write your name on the back of your poster. For more information contact DJ Breithbach: (317) 317-3797.

ADVENT WREATHS & CANDLES FOR SALE

The Altar Society has Advent wreaths and candles for sale in the vestibule. Wreath w/ candles are $15.50. A wreath is $12. Candles are $3. Contact Pat Devolder if you would like to make a purchase.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Advent by far and large is my most favorite time of the year. The period of great anticipation for our Lord’s birth is one I have always enjoyed as a small boy and continue to enjoy as a priest.

Growing up in my home, we always had the Advent wreath. Each morning at the breakfast table, dad, mom, my brother, and myself would pray together some Advent prayers, usually from the Advent Magnificat book. We’d light the appropriate Advent candles, my dad would normally lead the main reading, and we all would recite the prayer at the conclusion of the reflection. This struck a strong chord for me as a young boy. The simplicity of having a meal together as a family and praying together with our Catholic Faith’s prayers helped to make Advent something special for me.

As I grew older, I learned more about what our Faith teaches in observance of the Advent Season. I learned more about the joy of giving instead of hoping for some grand gift. I learned to help out in food drives and soup kitchens. I learned to let go of material goods to help others who need them more than I do. However, I can safely say, I am still learning what it means to have a generous spirit.

The Advent Season is a blissful time of the year. My favorite hymn for Advent is “O come, O come Emmanuel.” This centuries old text resonates with so many souls. My middle name is “Manuel,” and when I was a really small boy, I always wondered why they kept singing my middle name so often around this time of the year. Not until I got older, maybe around 10 years of age, did I realize that it was God’s name that was being sung and not mine. I figured that was much better. :-)

Healing this hymn brings back so many memories, including the old vinyl that my mom used to play that had this hymn on it played by such a beautiful choir. Everything about this hymn shines forth the beauty of our omnipotent God taking on the lowness of our human flesh to redeem us. “O come, O come Emmanuel!” brings forth the divinity of our God and how we so desire to see Him in the manger surrounded by the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It’s hymns like this that we should revel in more so than other songs this time of the year to help foster our own anticipation of our Lord’s coming on Christmas morning. Let us take advantage of our great repertoire of Advent hymns and songs, maybe even fast from our regular music, so that the true spirit of the Advent Season may be fostered even more in our hearts, and this way, Christmas morning may be filled with even greater joy at seeing Emmanuel born as a baby boy. Father Vogel

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.”

Welcome New Parishioners!

A warm welcome to the following families who have recently registered as members of St. Bridget Parish. Please introduce yourselves to them, and to our new family members, please jump into the activities in the parish and get to know everyone.

Donald and Theresa Lewis
Brian and Margaret Pilachowski and family
Kurt and Karen Glaesemann and family
Pat Devolder if you would like to make a purchase.

Page 4 St. Bridget Parish www.stbridgeph.weconnect.com stbridgetparish@stbridgeph.org

Page 5 St. Bridget Parish www.stbridgeph.weconnect.com stbridgetparish@stbridgeph.org