At the direction of the bishop:
- All public Masses are cancelled until April 3, 2020.
- Fr. Vogel will celebrate Mass privately for the intentions as previously scheduled.
- Confessions and adoration will continue.

The following are also cancelled:
- Parish penance services
- Stations of the Cross
- In-person small groups

Audio files of the Masses will be sent via e-mail and Facebook
- Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook and uploaded to our web site.
- For those using envelopes, please make your contribution by mail or drop it by the parish office. The Church put in the black drop box outside the parish office. Non-traditional gifts can be made online, now would be a good time to begin. To do so, go to our web site stbridgetph.weconnect.com/ Click “Give Online”.

Collections
- If you do not currently make your contributions online, now would be a good time to begin. To do so, go to our website stbridgetph.weconnect.com/ Click “Give Online”.
- For those using envelopes, please make your contribution by mail or drop it by the parish office. Non-cash donations can be put in the black drop box outside the door if no one is in the office. The Church will continue her ministries during this period of financial strain. Please consider maintaining or increasing your level of contributions at this time.

## PARISH STAFF
- Fr. Curt Vogel, Pastoral Administrator Frvogel2015@gmail.com
- Tim Long, Business Manager StBridgetParish@StBridgetPH.org
- Mel Thornsberry, Director of Youth Religious Education & Middle School EDGE Program irish_girl7787@yahoo.com
- Linda Ochs, Parish Secretary l.ochs@stbridgetph.org
- Matt and Penni Warner, High School Youth Directors Marpenni65@gmail.com
- Victim Services Coordinator: Kathleen Chastain (816) 392-0011
- Ombudsman: Joseph Crayon (816) 812-2500 crayon@ombudsmanjks.org

## PARISH LEADERSHIP
- ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL
  Chairman: Ross Dale charleenn@comcast.net
  Gary Crabtree garycrabtree@comcast.net
  Greg Dustman gr521@hotmail.com
  Joe Fiedler acjomejoe@comcast.net
  Robert Radmacher radbroex@aol.com
- ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL
  Chairman: Rick Kitchell rickkitchell@gmail.com
  Secretary: Rita Pilcher ritapilcher@gmail.com
  Bill Ruth parbruth@yahoo.com
  Melissa Thornsberry irish_girl7787@yahoo.com
  Mark Bock markbock@stbglobal.net

## GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH
**March 15, 2020**

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<tr>
<td>Extra Collection</td>
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Please remember our Dream Campaign. Dream Fund MTD: $9,910.50

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
**Ephesians 5:8-14 Sleep Walk**

Sleep is beautiful when it comes at the right time, but embarrassing otherwise. Some people sleep through class. They sleep at meetings. They sleep during concerts. They mean well, but they miss out on important moments of life. Other people sleep through life in other ways. They are unaware of political issues, unconcerned for the needs of the poor, ignorant of manners, aloof from people seeking their attention. Some people sleep through life, through relationships, and through faith.

Around the world, many people are unaware of Christ. It is as if they are asleep. They live in a darkness outside the light of the good news. They may have some inner sense of goodness, given as a gift from God. But they may not yet have heard the gospel, or had the opportunity to live it in faith.

Through baptism, we have been awakened from our sleep. Christ is our light. The Letter to the Ephesians says, “Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Baptism has changed our status. We no longer belong to the night. We shine with the light of day.

But this has consequences: “Live as children of light.” Having moved from darkness to light, we now have responsibilities. Let us shake off the sleep that threatens to keep us from being faithful to Christ. Throughout this Lent, let us rise from sleep and live in light.


## REFLECTION: Unjust Accusations

Perhaps everyone has experienced an unjust accusation by another. It may be because another is honestly mistaken about the facts or about our motivation for what we do. Or, it may be more malicious and cruel. Being falsely accused can be quite painful and will most likely tempt us to react in anger and defensiveness. But what is the proper response to such nonsense? Should we weary ourselves with silly words that mean nothing in the Mind of God? Our response should be one of Mercy. Mercy in the midst of persecution (See Diary #289). Have you experienced such an injustice in your life? Have others spoken ill of you and twisted the truth? Reflect upon how you react when this may happen. Are you able to receive these accusations as our Lord did? Can you pray for those who persecute you? Can you forgive even if no forgiveness is asked for? Commit yourself to this path, for you will never regret taking the path of Divine Mercy. “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” These were Your perfect words of Mercy spoken from the Cross. You forgave in the midst of Your brutal persecution. Help me, dear Jesus, to imitate Your example and to never allow the accusations, malice or persecution of another to distract me from You. Make me an instrument of Your Divine Mercy at all times. Jesus, I trust in You. (This reflection can be found at: https://divinemercy.life/2020/03/15/reflection-76-unjust-accusations-2/)
LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE
The April schedule of liturgical ministers is up on the web site at www.stbridgetph.weconnect.com/
liturgical-ministry-schedules. At this time, Masses are scheduled to resume on April 3rd. However, as we have all seen, things change on a daily basis as regards COVID-19. Liturgical roles will begin on the date that are assigned, whenever that may be.

Volunteer needed to work the Welcome Center desk at the St. Joseph location for Catholic Charities Kansas City-St. Joseph. The address is 1123 S 10th St. Joseph 64503, with hours of operation from 8-5:30 Mon-Thurs. Volunteers would welcome clients, answer phones and direct calls. A few hours a week would be a considerable help at this time. Please contact Linda Hopkins Volunteer Coordinator 816-659-6205 for more information.

AMAZON SMILE/ALMSGIVING You may still be looking for the perfect way to ensure that your almsgiving is meaningful this Lent. At Catholic Charities KCSJ we invite you to consider that easy and convenient way. For more information, contact nancy Butters, Dev. Mgr. at nbutters@ccharities.com or 816-659-8266.

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RACHEL’S VINEYARD For women and men who have experienced an abortion. If you or someone you know is suffering from an abortion decision, Jesus understands your pain. Allow Jesus to work a miracle in your heart. Rachel’s Vineyard retreats are all about healing the pain of abortion one weekend at a time. The first of three Kansas City retreats will be on April 24-26. Please call (816) 679-4973 or email rkvcmo@gmail.com for confidential information and to start the healing.

THE FERTILITYCARE™ SYSTEM Improve your marriage! The FertilityCare™ System (Creighton Model) Introductory Session is offered monthly at a variety of area locations. This fulfills your marriage policy requirement, it’s helpful for achieving and avoiding pregnancy, it has medical applications and it’s better than IVF for infertility. Register online at fertilitycarekc.com, or call the FertilityCare™ Center of Kansas City at (816) 858-0198.

FISH FRY RESCHEDULED
The Final Knights of Columbus fish fry, scheduled for Friday, March 27th, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

PRAYER TO MARY, HELP OF THE SICK
© Mary, always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Patroness & Protector of the People of the United States of America, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide as our Mother and Guardian. We may return to joy and to fasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our crosses to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection, Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in tribulation, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. (invocation of St. Joseph)

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FROM FATHER VOGEL

2020 SECOND COLLECTIONS
April 5: DREAM Fund
April 10: (Good Friday): Holy Land
May 3: DREAM Fund
May 17: Tomorrow’s Priests: Vocation Fund
May 31: Peter’s Pence
June 7: DREAM Fund
June 21: Communications
July 5: DREAM Fund
Aug. 2: DREAM Fund
Aug. 15: THE ASSUMPTION
          (not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2020)
Aug. 16: Diocesan Life & Justice
Sept. 6: DREAM Fund
Sept.20: Church in Latin America
Oct. 4: DREAM Fund
Oct. 16: Mission Sunday
Nov. 1: REL SUNDAYS
Nov. 1: DREAM Fund
Dec. 6: DREAM Fund
Dec. 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Dec. 13: Religious Retirement
Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS

Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of artisans, pray for us.
Glory of home life, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of families, pray for us.
Solace of the wretched, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Terror of demons, pray for us.
Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Jesus.
He made him the lord of his household And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:
O God, in thy ineffable providence thou wast pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech thee, that we might all agree for that to be the object of our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever.

In Christo et Maria, Fr. Vogel

Lent is a time for deep prayer and fasting. It is a time for us to sincerely draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ and Mother Mary. How many of us question the current world events, with empty shelves in stores and the media constantly telling us updated news that sounds dire.

The world has always had one hope, and that is found in the Word Incarnate, in the God-Man Jesus Christ. We do need to be prudent in washing our hands more often and observing proper hygiene to prevent the spread of any illness, but we also need to place greater emphasis upon our God. Only by us being humbly prudent, trusting in God, and placing more faith in Christ Jesus will we be able to deal with the Corona Virus in such a manner that is more in accord with the Saints in our beloved Catholic Faith.

This is a trial, a cross, and one not to be taken too lightly. To counter such a threat to our world, we need supernatural help. It is times like this that it is very appropriate to go to the Terror of demons, O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Patroness & Protector of the People of the United States of America, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide as our Mother and Guardian. We may return to joy and to fasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our crosses to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection, Amen.
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in tribulation, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen. (invocation of St. Joseph)
**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 22**

5:00 p.m. † Ray Bryant by Chris Porter

**Wednesday, March 25**

8:30 a.m. † Charlene Taylor
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 | Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 | John 5:1-16

**Friday, March 27**

No Mass
Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 | Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 | John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday, March 28**

5:00 p.m. † Rose Begeman

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 29**

6th Sunday of Lent
8:00 a.m. St. Bridget Parishioners
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 43 (42): 1-2
Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**Tuesday, March 30**

† Deceased
Confessions prior to weekday and Sunday Masses; Rosary prayed 30 minutes prior to weekend Masses; Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed prior to Tuesday morning Mass

**REPTING ABUSE**

The Diocece 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@ombudsmankcj.org. If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City — St. Joseph.

**Scholarship Application**

There are three scholarships available to St. Bridget students. The Newel Gipson Scholarship is $500 given by the Altar Society. The Knights of Columbus Scholarship is $1,000. The Eugene F. and Lucille B. Tierney Scholarship is also $1,000. All scholarship applications are available on the home page of the parish website. The Tierney Scholarship and K. of C. applications are also available at the Pleasant Hill High School Counseling Center. The Nelson Gipson Scholarship application is due to the Altar Society at the parish office on April 10, 2020. The Tierney Scholarship application must be mailed in and postmarked by April 1, 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 3:00pm.

**ONLINE GIVING AT ST. BRIDGET**

There is no better time to begin online giving than the present. You can easily access the web page by going to the parish website (to the “Giving” tab) or by scanning this QR code. Electronic giving allows you the freedom to set up a regular monthly donation transaction, change your current transactions, or give a one-time gift to St. Bridget. We have 44 families who currently utilize electronic giving every month via a checking or savings account or by using their credit card. Electronic giving is an easy and consistent method of donating to St. Bridget. Now, you can have more control of your donating activity.

All transactions are administered by a secure provider, Vanco Systems which then integrates with our church census software to account for donations. Your transactions are secure, and your data protection is very important. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.
In today’s Gospel, the disciples questioned Jesus if sin caused the man’s blindness. Did he or someone in his family warrant this punishment by their offense to God? The disciples listened and accepted Jesus’ explanation that the man’s lack of sight was not due to sin but instead was to show the glory of God. Meanwhile, the Pharisees refused to accept Jesus’ teaching and in essence became the blind ones. Ironically, their inability to see could be directly attributed to sin — specifically, the sin of pride.

They refused to believe in the miracle which had occurred right before them and would never be able to see the miracles Jesus could perform in their lives. Their metaphorical blindness remained because they were unwilling to believe in any truth other than their own. Jesus has the power and authority to open anyone’s eyes, to break through anyone’s darkness, but first we have to be willing to see.

Sometimes we face circumstances truly beyond our control, which make us wonder what we’ve done to be abandoned by God or what may have angered him. It is imperative to understand an important truth about God: He does not bring hardships; these exist as a result of the Fall in the Garden of Eden. God has given each of us free will so that we may be able to freely chose to enter into a relationship with him — one based on love, not coercion.

Trusting in God’s promises that “all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28), or that “for human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible” (Mt 19:26), can be difficult in the midst of a tragedy, trial, or difficulty. However, one who continues to pray in thanksgiving maintains a grateful heart and remains hopeful, like the man born blind. Although Jesus’ method of curing the man’s blindness may have seemed strange, the man, thankful for a chance at healing, followed Jesus’ instructions.

Lent is the perfect time to rub mud in our eyes, figuratively speaking, and allow Jesus to heal our spiritual blindness. Whether currently struggling through a difficult time, or scars from past battles that are hard to forget, prayers of thanksgiving can mold those experiences into blessings. Clarity of vision of the cumulative experiences in our lives belong only with God; apart from him, we will never make sense of them. Remaining close, thankful, and open to seeing his hand in all that happens in the world, keeps our hearts safeguarded from growing hard. Lent is a time to reflect on what blinds us from saying, “Lord, I believe,” and a time to refocus on following the Light of the World.

**FOR REFLECTION**
- Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each one.
- In difficult situations, are you able to recognize reasons to be thankful?
- What burdens keep you free from embracing a hope-filled life in Christ?
Thank God Ahead

Blessed Solanus Casey was a simple Capuchin friar from Oak Grove, Wisconsin. Blessed Solanus is an extraordinary example of how a person can foster devout faith amid an ordinary life. Through his many hardships, he learned the blessing of maintaining a heart of gratitude, regardless of current circumstances. Solanus often counseled people to consider the good God would do in the future for them, and to “Thank God ahead of time!”

CATECHISM CONNECTION

“The inexhaustible richness of [the Eucharist] is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called:

“Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God. The Greek words eucharistein and eulogein recall the Jewish blessings that proclaim — especially during a meal — God’s works: creation, redemption, and sanctification.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1328

“Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is. Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head.”

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2637

Prayer

Lord Jesus, may I remember each day this Lent to thank you for each blessing and each cross. May the devotion I offer you be from a place of great love and not hinge on my happiness, but instead on the blessed hope found in Easter. Our blessings are abundant; so should our thanks to the One who bestows them. Lord, this week, I will pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances.