

ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

CHURCH

211 E. DIVISION ST., PO BOX 86, RIVER FALLS, WI 54022
PHONE: 715-425-1870 | FAX: 715-425-1871

SCHOOL

135 E. DIVISION ST., RIVER FALLS, WI 54022
PHONE: 715-425-1872 | FAX: 715-425-1873

WWW.SAINTBRIDGETS.ORG

THOUGHTS FROM FATHER HARRIS

[John preached to the people,] "Turn away from your sins and be baptized... and God will forgive your sins." Mark 1:4

Charlie Rumbaugh grew up in reform schools, jails, and mental hospitals. At age 17, he escaped from a manic-depressive ward, found a gun, and killed someone in a scuffle during a robbery attempt. A Texas jury sentenced him to death. Awaiting execution, he asked a friend to pray that God would give him the grace to forgive the people he had grown to hate. Seconds before his execution, he said to the people present, "You may not forgive me for what I did, but I forgive everyone who has ever done anything against me."

How full do I forgive – or pray to be able to forgive – those who have hurt me in some way?

We are like beasts when we kill. We are like human beings when we judge. We are like God when we forgive. Anonymous. (Mission 2000, Mark Link, S.J.)

Christmas Mass Times for Our Cluster

We would love to have you join us for Christmas Masses at St. Bridget or St. Mary's in Hammond. Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve Masses

3:00 p.m. St. Bridget
(Children's Choir)

5:00 p.m. St. Mary

7:00 p.m. St. Bridget

10:30 p.m. St. Bridget

(Adult Choir with 10 p.m. concert)

Christmas Day Masses

8:30 a.m. St. Bridget

10:30 a.m. St. Mary

DAILY WORD

Mon., 12/11 Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tue., 12/12 Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or
Lk 1:39-47
Wed., 12/13 Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thu., 12/14 Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Fri., 12/15 Is 48:17-19.Mt 11:16-19
Sat., 12/16 Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a,
10-13

COME JOIN US!

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday 5:15 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. (during school year)
Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Masses

Please consult the bulletin/website

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We have a wonderful problem at the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass — lots of people attending. Please make everyone feel welcome by helping them find a place to sit – preferably in the main section of church. Consider moving towards the front of church so that the elderly and those with small children can be closer to the back, if preferred (children are always welcome up front so they can see better); move into the middle of the pew to allow others to join your row without feeling like they are inconveniencing you; and encourage and invite people to sit with you – especially those who are searching for a place to sit.

Some people prefer to sit in the overflow area and that's OK. However, we are finding that the noise and activity in the Fellowship Hall is interfering with the sanctity of the Mass for those sitting in that area. I ask that everyone respect that area as **worship space** and refrain from talking or moving about until Mass is over. Our goal at St. Bridget is that all are made to feel welcome. Thanks for helping as ministers in Christ. Fr. Harris

OUR PARISH FAMILY

REST IN PEACE

We remember and pray for our deceased parish members and relatives:

Marion Elliott

Billy Johnson

*Brother of Alice (Mike) Cernohous
and Ron (Vicky) Johnson*

John Patrick O'Neill

Father of Susan (Tom) Vik

Betty Jilek

*Sister in law of Tony Jilek
and Joe (Rene) Jilek*

Elaine Dusek

Mother of Lisa (Jay) Huppert

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Remember in Your Prayers

- If someone you know becomes hospitalized and would like a visit, please call the church office.
- Let us know if someone would like to be prayed for in church or be listed in the bulletin prayer list.
- To be included in the prayer line, call Virginia Wagner at 715-684-2336.

Jayson Andrea	Frances Meyer
Gary Cater	Michael Ogden
Gerald Cernohous	Rose Marie Ogden
Erica Glover	Steve Paulick
Dorian Hintz	Gwen Paulson
Ann Holland	Mike Reis
Delores Herum	Kelli Schmidt
Dawn Huberty	Florence Simon
Barb Ickler	Dorothy Slivicki
Noah Keck	Izabella Thompson

TITHES AND FINANCIAL NEWS

DECEMBER 3, 2017

Adult Contributions	\$13,480.00
Loose Collection	\$944.86
Debt Retirement (Incl ACH)	\$5,361.00
SCRIP (150 Orders)	\$1,587.83
Priest Emergency Fund	\$320.00
Donuts	\$410.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
5:45 p.m. Soup and Substance
6:30 p.m. DivorceCare
6:30 p.m. Base Training
6:30 p.m. Breast Cancer Support Group
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
11:00 a.m. The Gathering
4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation
5:15 p.m. Mass
+Int: *Don Heit by Mary J. Eiden Schink*
6:30 p.m. Committee Meetings (various times)
8:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Mass
+Int: *Bruce Weiss by Kristin, Ryan, and Emma Miller*
6:30 p.m. Catechist Meeting
6:30 p.m. Advent Lectio
6:30 p.m. Musician and Cantor Practice
7:45 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thursday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Resurrection Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. School Christmas Program
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. SATB Choir Practice

Friday, December 15

7:30 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m. Mass
+Int: *Mark Miller by the family*
9:00 a.m. Advent Lectio
2:00 p.m. Funeral – John Patrick O'Neill

Saturday, December 16

7:30 a.m. Men's Group (helping with Giving Tree)
8:30 a.m. Giving Tree Family Pick Up
4-4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m. Mass
+Int: *Norbert "Bud" Meyer by family and friends*

Sunday, December 17

8:45 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Preschool
9:30 a.m. Mass
+Int: *Jean Koukal and Michael S. Koukal by the Koukal Family*
11:00 a.m. Mass
+Int: *Churches of St. Bridget and St. Mary*
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
7:00 p.m. Mass: St. Thomas More - UWRF Newman Center

PARISH LIFE

Radio/TV Mass Broadcasts

The radio broadcast is aired over WEVR 1550 AM and 106.3 FM on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for our sick and shut-ins. Tune to Channel 16 on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. or Thursday at 9:00 a.m. for a TV rebroadcast. The Mass for December 16 is in loving memory of Norbert "Bud" Meyer by families and friends.

Council of Catholic Women Raffle

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Raffle drawing took place this past weekend. Congratulations to the winners: Lynn Parsons, Frank Meyer, Norm Radtke, Barb Ickler, Mary K Lan, Barb Grant, Lauren Baillargeon, Marlys Mueller, Stephanie Shippy, Pat Nistler, Kathy Bowman, Mary Wanner, Doris Trebus, Colleen Conard, Dave Hennessey, Pat Wiskerchen, Rita Marrinan, Larry Hanson, and Conrad Bekum. Once again, a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated prizes and money to this raffle: Carol Feyereisen, John Feyereisen, Judy Ritger, Mary Betzel, Berneita Wienke, Pat Meyer, The Martha Group, Dan Ritger, Lauren Baillargeon, Betty Schmidt, Kathy Burge, Brian McQuade of Edward Jones Investments, and Kwik Trip. Our raffle was a success this year as a result of the generosity of the donations we received and the support of everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Thank you!

Fair Trade Coffee

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) will be selling Fair Trade products on the weekends of December 9 and 10 and December 16 and 17. We will have cooking chocolate, specialty type coffees, and candy bars (larger assortment than usual). All make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers.

Mass of Remembrance Pictures

Thank you for bringing in pictures for the Mass of Remembrance. They are ready to pick up in the parish office.

Solar Energy Committee

A St Bridget Solar Energy Committee is being formed. The organizational meeting of the committee will meet on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the West View Room. Everyone with an interest in joining the committee or who has questions or concerns is welcome. Please contact Tony Jilek at 715-220-7527 or ajilek@comcast.net with any questions.

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program

Sunday is the last day to drop off gifts for the Giving Tree. We are still in need of cash and gift cards to purchase remaining gifts. Donations of frozen meat can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, December 16, at 8:00 a.m. Thank you!

Christmas Memorial Flowers

If you would like to donate money for Christmas flowers, please place donations in an envelope labeled with the name(s) of the person who it is honoring and the donor's name and phone number. The names and donors will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. The deadline to have your name included in the Christmas bulletin is Monday, December 18. Thanks!

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

There are still several spots available for bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Sign up for two hour shifts in the Fellowship Hall or contact Deanna at pcsakettlecoordinator@gmail.com or call 612-987-9584 for available times. You are welcome to ring any day of the week except Sundays. Please notify Deanna by email or phone if you will be ringing times that are not listed on the signup. We are asking this year to have an adult chaperone so our youth are not ringing alone.

Christmas Scrip

Scrip will be sold in the church office through Friday, December 22 during normal scrip hours.

Monday: Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday: Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Scrip will **NOT** be sold or available for pick up the weekends of December 23/24 or January 30/31.

Food Harvest of St. Croix Valley

Food Harvest of St. Croix Valley will be distributing food on Saturday, December 16 from 7 a.m. until the food is gone. See flyers on the bulletin boards.

Ordination

Fr. Thomas Thompson, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, is pleased to announce that Mr. Richard Rhinehart, a seminarian for the Diocese of Superior, will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Bishop James Powers on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter the Fisherman Parish, Eagle River. Please keep Richard in your prayers as he prepares for this important step toward priestly ordination.

FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

New Parish Software

All registered members are asked to verify and update the information we have on file (address, phone numbers, email, etc.) in our parishioner portal: Connect Now - My Own Church. Please refer to the bulletin insert for detailed instructions. For those without computer access, we will begin updating your records in January. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Parking Attendants Needed

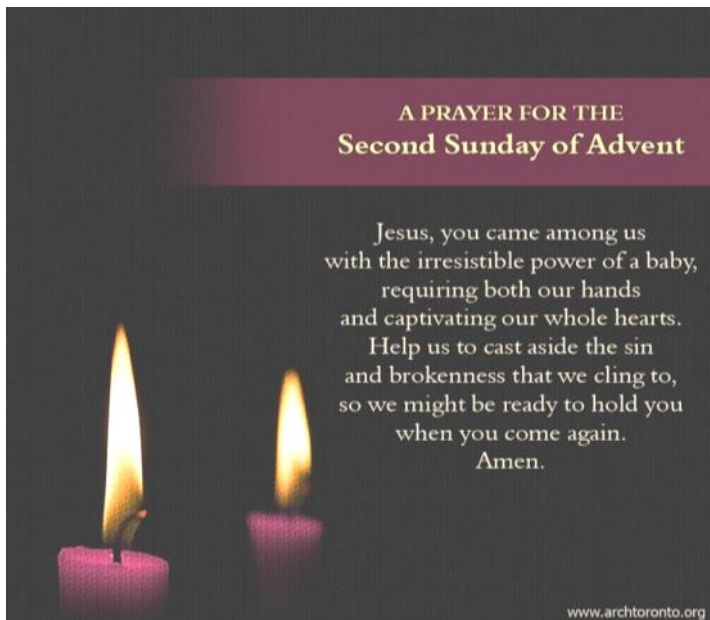
We're looking for 5 volunteers to help direct traffic at the 3 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass at St Bridget. If you've ever attended this liturgy, you know it's very crowded both in the church and the parking areas. The church will provide reflective vests for you to wear. We want everyone to feel welcome! Please contact Sue in the office if you can help.

Catholic Services Appeal

Thank you to all who have responded to the annual CSA collection. Thanks to your generosity, we have received \$88,832.87 towards our fair share goal of \$144,368! If you have been waiting to send in your envelope or donate online, now is a perfect time to contribute and get your 2017 tax deduction.

2017 Contribution Statements

Church contributions must be postmarked no later than 12/31/17 to be credited to your 2017 statement. If you are planning on dropping off a contribution in the office, you will need to do so by December 22 because the church office is closed December 25-January 1 for Christmas and New Years. Contributions received after December 31 will be applied to 2018.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Book Study

Our first book study has ended with plans to begin a study group, discussing The Shack. This study will begin on Thursday, January 4 in the Joany Shepard Memorial Library. We will meet 10 -11 am. If you would be interested in an evening study of this book, please contact me with the day and time that this would work. The book can be purchased online through Amazon or at our local bookstore Fox Den Books. Please sign up at the Information desk or email Jodie at jrubenzer@stbparish.com

Soup and Substance

As we continue to attempt to acknowledge the responses to the parish study for more opportunities for adult formation and spiritual growth, we introduce to you "Soup and Substance". This will become an ongoing opportunity to attend a small soup supper followed by spiritual growth to feed both your body and soul. These nights will provide growth opportunities in spirituality, church teachings and prayer. And as we continue to grow deeper in relationship with God and one another, we might then be able to know how to respond to the challenges and gifts that life present to us. We warmly invite you to the first "Soup and Substance" on December 11; My Soul in Stillness Waits: an Advent night of prayer. Soup supper to begin at 5:45 with "substance" to follow at 6:30. There is no cost, but a free-will donation will be accepted.

Listen! – An Advent offering of Lectio Divina for the Gospels of Advent

What is Lectio Divina? This is Latin for "sacred reading". It is simply a way of encountering God in Scripture, a way of sitting and listening. There are four easy steps for lectio which take the form of prayerful questions. First ask, "What does the text say", second "What does this text say to me", third "What would I like to say to God about this text", and fourth "What difference will this text make in my life?"

As we prepare our homes, I would invite you to also indulge yourself an opportunity to prepare your heart during this holy time of Advent. We will gather Wednesday evenings on November 29, December 6, 13, 20 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. or Friday mornings December 1, 8, 15, 22 to share the Gospels of Advent using Lectio Divina. Please prayerfully consider joining in 1 or all 4 sessions. Please bring your Bible. Email or call Jodie with questions. Joy and Peace!!

ST. BRIDGET PARISH SCHOOL

Girls' Basketball Home Games

Our girls' basketball teams each have a home game on the days listed below. These students and coaches have been working hard after school getting ready for the basketball season. Come, cheer them on to victory! Concessions (popcorn, hot dogs, chips, water, juice boxes, etc.) will be sold. Proceeds will be used to help offset program expenses.

Tues., Dec. 12 at 5:15 & 6:30

Tues., Dec. 19 at 4:15 & 5:15

Tues., Jan. 9 at 5:15 & 6:15

Education Committee Meeting

Our Education Committee will meet Tues., Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Before/After Care Room. This meeting is open to anyone interested in attending.

St. Bridget Parish School Christmas Program

Our Christmas Program will be presented in the gym Thurs., Dec. 14 at 6:30 pm. We will also have a dress rehearsal Thurs., Dec. 14 at 2 pm. This is open to anyone who would like attend, but especially to those who would find it difficult to come in the evening. Your presence at a dress rehearsal really helps the students put the finishing touches on their program, as there some aspects of a performance that we are unable to simulate without an audience! Come, if you are able!

Home & School Bake Sale Our Home & School Association will sponsor a holiday bake sale at the church following the December 16-17 weekend Masses. Families are asked to bring their donations to school on Friday, December 15 or bring them to the Garden View Room at church before Mass on Saturday/Sunday. Items will be sold for a freewill donation. The funds from this event go to the activities that our Home & School puts on such as the Back-to-School Night, Mardi Gras, Spring Fling, and Staff Appreciation.

Christmas Vacation

Christmas vacation begins at the end of the regular school day on Friday, December 22, and continues through Monday, January 1. Classes resume Tuesday, January 2.

St. Bridget Parish School Gala 2018

This will be a night you won't soon forget! We hope you will join us for "A Night in the Enchanted Forest" on Saturday, February 24th. Tickets are available for purchase in the school office, church office, and on our website. They would make a wonderful Christmas gift! Contact the school office if you have any questions or trouble with online orders.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to those who made their First Reconciliation this weekend:

Aiden Adams	Madeline Murphy
Reed Arnold	Piper Murphy
Ty Arnold	Emily Nagel
Daisy Austrum	Brookelyn Novak
Elizabeth Baillargeon	Cadence Novak
Braelyn Bjork	Nicholas Paschke
Brady Boos	Bjorn Paulson
Carter Braun	Reece Pearson
Annemarie Csiacsek	Rylan Priestley
Grady French	Lilianna Reynaga
Bryn Goetsch	Aylah Ross
Rhett Hamilton	Matthew Rudie
Lucas Hamlin	Mackenzie Schmidt
Maya Haugen	Madeline Schmidt
John Hayes	Benjamin Schroeder
Trey Hecker	Lydia Selzler
Avianna Hedlund	Kennedy Slaikeu
Kayla Hoefft	Kayleigh Sura
Collin Jennings	Evelyn Sykora
Avary Johnson	Emme Torgersen
Zoe Johnston	Frankie Torgersen
Remy Kitchner	Bennett Tryba
Natalie Lange	Charles Van Nurden
Dalton Leier	Matthew Wayne
Charles Matzek	Clark Werwie
Kensie Matzek	George Werwie
Abigail Morgan	Henry Werwie

AREA EVENTS

Christmas Spanish Mass

A Spanish Mass for Christmas will be held on Saturday, December 16 at 5 p.m. at St. Mary's in Hammond. A customary celebration will be held in the Church basement following Mass.

Please welcome Fr. Jim Brinkman to St. Bridget on Saturday, December 16 at the 5 p.m. Mass.

American Legion Bingo

Back for our 8th year. Sessions are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month through May, and the Saturday of River Falls Days. Please join us. Help us continue to serve the community and Military Veterans and their families in the area.

Grieving through the Holidays

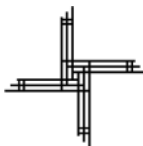
Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Silent Nights: Grieving Well Through the Holidays is sponsored by Adoray Home Health & Hospice. Free and open to the public. Pre-register at 715-629-1888. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

Documentary About Poverty in America

All are invited to a showing of the documentary "American Winter" on Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the River Falls United Methodist Church. The film looks at the lives of families who have been economically left out in the cold in the U.S. the richest country on earth. The movie will be followed by a brief discussion including local issues around poverty. This is a free event hosted by "Power of Community," a collaboration of the United Methodist Church and the Whole Earth Market Co-op. Attendees are invited to bring new hats, scarves, mittens and gloves (particularly children's sizes) to be distributed to local charitable organizations.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

St. Bridget Catholic Church is a Christian Community which exists to continue the mission of Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As such, we are committed to working for the coming of God's Kingdom. We accomplish this through worship, community life, Christian education and service to those who are in need.



PARISH STAFF

CONTACT INFORMATION



Fr. Gerald Harris, Pastor
715-425-1879 ext. 103, pastor@stbparish.com



Sue Steckbauer, Parish Administrator
715-425-1879 ext. 102, parishadmin@stbparish.com



Tammy Pitzen, Office Assistant
715-425-1879 ext. 101, receipt@stbparish.com



Susan Landry, Accountant
715-425-1879 ext. 104, accountant@stbparish.com



Gregg Miller, Pastoral Minister/Visitor
715-425-1879 ext. 110, visitation@stbparish.com



Diane Wengelski, Elementary Faith Formation
715-425-1879 ext. 105, faithform@stbparish.com



Tessa Schuermann, Teen Faith Formation
715-425-1879 ext. 106, youthministry@stbparish.com



Amy Burns, Youth Minister
715-425-1879 ext. 107, hleader@stbparish.com



Barrett Grove, Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
715-425-1879 ext. 108, liturgy@stbparish.com



Jodie Rubenzer, Discipleship and Spiritual Growth
715-307-2524, spiritualgrowth@stbparish.com



Kelly Wengelski, Faith Formation Assistant
715-425-1879 ext. 111, FFsupport@stbparish.com



Emma LaPorte, Website Coordinator
715-425-1879 ext. 111, media@stbparish.com



Randy Koller, Maintenance
715-425-1879 ext. 112, facilities@stbparish.com

Church Kitchen: 715-425-1879 ext. 117

Lubich Hall: 715-425-1879 ext. 118

St. Bridget Parish School



Jeanne McCoy, Principal
715-425-1872, principal@stbparish.com



Hillary Gilles, Office Assistant
715-425-1872, office@stbparish.com

St. Bridget - Accessing “My Own Church”

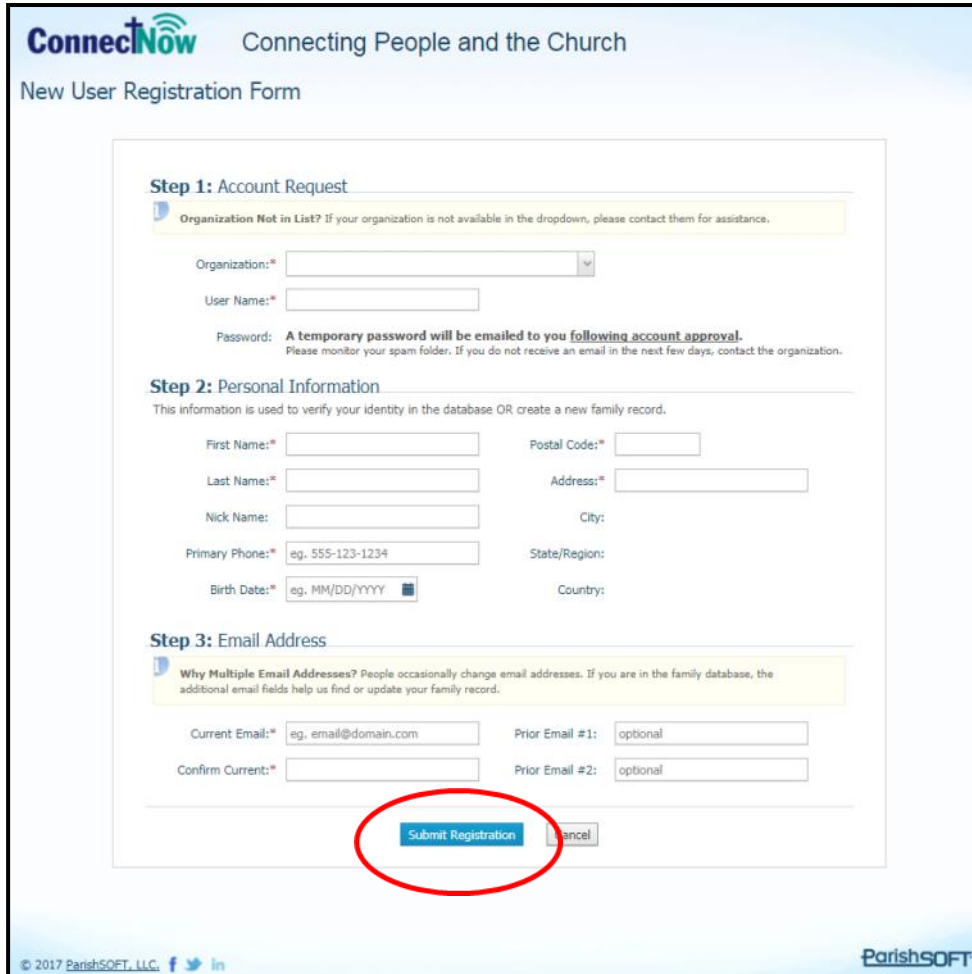
Our new parish data management system allows parishioners to access and update their own personal data. Having up to date data helps our church to operate more efficiently, saving money and time. Please take a few minutes to create an account and update your personal data. Thank you!

1. Open an internet browser and go to <https://connectnow.parishsoft.com/superior>.
2. Click on the “New User?” link under the password box. (Don’t put anything in the Username or Password boxes.)



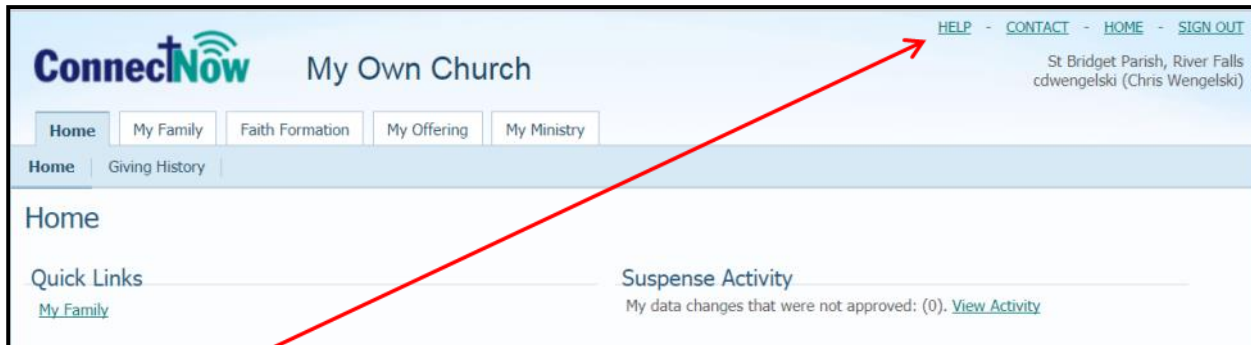
3. Choose “St. Bridget Parish” in the dropdown for Organization.

- Enter whatever username you want to use, as well as the personal info that is requested.
- Enter your family email address (or addresses) and click “Submit Registration.”



4. If the system is not able to verify the information that you provided, a staff member will review your request for online access. (You will be notified when your account has been activated, which is usually within a business day.)

If the system can immediately verify your information, you will be brought to the home screen for **My Own Church**:



Please note **HELP** button in the upper right corner. This system has a very good embedded help system to answer questions and guide users through what they are trying to do.

5. To access your family records, click on the **“My Family”** tab and then click on the **“Family Detail”** button in the blue bar just below the tabs. Please note: The **“My Family”** screen will remain blank until you click on **“Family Detail”**.



Please update any information that is out of date for your family and each of your family members.

To edit, click **“Edit Details”** at the bottom of the screen.

- In the Family Details section, please check the following:
 - Names
 - Family email address (used for all church communication including the bulletin. If you want to receive emails at multiple addresses, list all of them here: separated by a semi-colon and no space.)
 - Primary phone number
 - Address Tabs
 - If you have a mailing address different than your home address, please add under **“Mailing”**
 - If you have a seasonal address, please add under **“Other”** and indicate dates to be used
 - You can remove checkboxes for any indicated areas but please know we do not publish phone or email
- Click **“Save”**
- In the Member Details section, please check the following for each family member:
 - Verify that all information that is listed is correct
 - Add additional information as willing (religion, language, ethnicity are needed for Diocesan reports only)
- Remember to click **“Edit Details”** at the bottom to make changes. Once changes are made, click **“Save”** to go to another family member or **“Save and Close”** if you are done with all editing.

Thank you for taking the time to verify and update your family’s information!