

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

This is the First Sunday of Advent of the 4 Sundays before Christmas.

[Jesus says of his Second Coming,] "Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:33

Arthur Tonne recalls an interesting footnote of history that occurred in the fifth century. It concerns a group of monks popularly known as the Sleepless Ones. A holy man known simply as Alexander, recruited 300 monks and divided them into six groups. Each group took turns keeping "watch" for the Second Coming of Jesus. Day and night a group was always awake and praying, so as to be ready for the Second Coming of Jesus, the bridegroom and the final judge.

The story of the Sleepless Ones invites me to ask, If Jesus came ten minutes from now, how ready would I be?

It is by design that Jesus hid the last day from us — so that we'd be on the lookout for him every day of our lives. Saint Augustine (MISSION 2000 Mark Link, S.J.

God bless your waiting.

Fr. Harris

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is Friday, December 8. There will be a 9:00 a.m. Mass on Friday at St. Bridget and at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's on Thursday, December 7. In addition there will be a Liturgy of the Word on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at St. Bridget.

Grief and the Holidays

This year's speaker, Kathleen Helgeson, MA CFLE, will speak on the natural process of grief and how we can better navigate through its long and painful journey especially during the holiday season. This event will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at O'Connell-Benedict Family Funeral Home (formerly Cashman-Hill). All are welcome! No fee to attend but a donation for the River Falls Community Food Pantry would be appreciated. Please RSVP to the O'Connell-Benedict Funeral Homes at 715-425-5644. Sponsored by the O'Connell Benedict Family Funeral Homes.

DAILY WORD

Mon., 12/4	Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tue., 12/5	Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wed., 12/6	Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thu., 12/7	Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri., 12/8	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Sat., 12/9	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun., 12/10	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

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

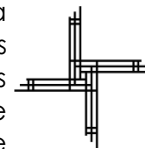
Saturday	4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
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Church Office Hours

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

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.



OUR PARISH FAMILY

BAPTISMS

We welcome into the family of God and our Catholic Community:

Violet Lynn Hamlin
Daughter of Justin and Amy Hamlin

REST IN PEACE

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

Ronald Anderson
(father of Gary Anderson)
Donald Antiel
Marion Elliott
John O'Neill

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 Magner at 715-684-2336.

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

TITHES AND FINANCIAL NEWS

NOVEMBER 19TH & NOVEMBER 26TH

Adult Contributions	\$24,485.04
Loose Collection	\$1,536.18
Debt Retirement	\$1,406.00
SCRIP (281 Orders)	\$2,300.57
Priest Emergency Fund	\$600.00
Thanksgiving Day Collection (Food Shelf).....	\$585.00
Moola For Milk (Food Shelf)	\$536.27

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, December 4

11:00 a.m. Funeral Mass - Marion Elliott
 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Committee Meeting
 6:30 p.m. DivorceCare

Tuesday, December 5

8:30 a.m.- 8 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation
 5:15 p.m. Mass
+Int: Bernard T. & Edna V. Meyer by the family
 5:45 p.m. Anointing of the Sick

Wednesday, December 6

1:30 p.m. Mass at Comforts of Home
+Int: Marge Giefer by the family
 1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Kinnic Health
 3:15 p.m. Grade 6-8 Faith Formation
 5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Meal
 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Classes
 6:30 p.m. Advent Lectio
 7:45 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Thursday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Resurrection Choir Practice
 1:30 p.m. Mass at Wellhaven
+Int: Pat McCann by Dorothy McCann
 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Euchre
 6:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion (St. Bridget)
 6:30 p.m. Mass - Immaculate Conception (St. Mary's)
 7:00 p.m. RCIA
 7:00 p.m. SATB Choir Practice

Friday, December 8

7:30 a.m. Rosary
 9:00 a.m. Mass - Immaculate Conception
+Int: Ron Miller by the family
 9:00 a.m. Advent Lectio
 9:30 a.m. Alzheimer's Support Group
 6:00 p.m. Knight of Columbus Christmas Party

Saturday, December 9

7:00 a.m. Catholic Watchmen
 9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 9:00 a.m. First Reconciliation Celebration
 4-4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation
 5:00 p.m. Mass
+Int: Don & Delores Plonty by Dan & Doris Cernohous

Sunday, December 10

8:45 a.m. Rosary
 9:30 a.m. Preschool
 9:30 a.m. Mass
+Int: Lexi VanNurden by Patti & Jim Tricker, Chelsei & Ray Reynaga, Macie and Lilliana
 11:00 a.m. Youth Mass
Int: Churches of St. Bridget and St. Mary
 2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass (St. Mary's)
 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 9 is in loving memory of Don and Delores Plonty by Dan and Doris Cernohous.

Council of Catholic Women Raffle

The Council of Catholic Women (CCW) Raffle will take place THIS Sunday, December 3rd, at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Women from the CCW will be selling raffle tickets in the Garden View Room after all Masses this weekend. Please do not put raffle tickets in the collection plate - they will not be included. Thank you to parishioners who donated the prizes and for those who purchased raffle tickets. We appreciate your support of this fundraiser!

Knight News

The Knights of Columbus Council 4902 will hold their annual Christmas party in the St. Bridget Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 8th, starting at 6:00 p.m. All KC's and their family members are invited to come and share fellowship, appetizers, refreshments, and games. If you have any questions contact BJ Grant at 715-425-9710 or bjgrant67@hotmail.com. We hope to see many of you at the party.

The Gathering

The Gathering (for those 60 +) will have our Annual Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 12 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. with Professor Eileen Korenic from UWRF Physics Department talking about 'Historical Astronomy' and the Christmas Star. Coffee, and other hot drinks, desserts, and finger sandwiches will be served and the River Falls High School Costume Carolers will perform. Sign up at the information desk.

Catholic Watchmen

All men are invited to the next Catholic Watchmen meeting on Saturday, December 9th from 7 - 8:30 a.m. The meeting begins with group organized prayer and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession in the Church and then continues with a light breakfast, a video presentation, small group discussion. For information, contact Tony Jilek at 715-220-7527.

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program

The tree still has some ornaments left to take and more families are continuing to come in. There are some volunteer spots still available.

Also needed:

- * Cash/check and SCRIP cards
- * Donations of frozen meat
- * Wrapping paper, tape and gift bags

All gifts needs to be returned to church unwrapped and with the ornament attached by the 11:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, Dec. 10th.

Thank you for being Angels on Earth!

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!!

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Shopko and Family Fresh will be starting Friday, November 24th thru Saturday, December 23rd. 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. Make it an annual event for your family, friends or organizations. The more the merrier!

FROM THE PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

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 for 2018. Remember - make your year end contribution and CSA donation and get that tax deduction!

Christmas Scrip

Scrip will be sold in the church office through Friday, December 22. The last day to order national scrip for Christmas delivery will be Sunday, December 17. Ordered cards will need to be picked up in the office on Friday, December 22 between noon and 3 p.m. Scrip will **NOT** be sold or available for pick up the weekends of December 23/24 or January 30/31.

New Parish Software

We are slowly making the transition to our new software (ConnectNow) and will be asking all registered parishioners to verify the information we have on file (address, phone numbers, email, etc.). Having accurate information is critical for all parish communication - especially for the upcoming contribution statements. Those who receive the electronic bulletin received directions this week. More information will be included in the upcoming weeks in the paper bulletin.

Tithing Notice from the Social Justice Committee:

November tithing grants were awarded as follows: \$1,000 to River Falls Area Food Shelf, \$2,000 to Meals From The Heart, \$1,000 to the Angels On Earth Giving Tree and \$1,500 to the Pastor Emergency Fund. Each month our parish gives 2% of the adult offerings to further the mission of the Catholic Church. These funds are directed toward charitable and social justice causes: to meet direct human needs, to safeguard human dignity, and to help transform society by reducing the root causes of poverty and injustice. Tithes, which are granted to non-profit organizations working to address these areas of need, may be requested by anyone on behalf of an organization. Applications are available in the parish office and on the parish website and should be submitted to the Social Justice Committee for review and decision-making.

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.

RCIA

This weekend we welcome through the Rite of Acceptance the following candidates who seek to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church: Terry Ewy, Brandon Steffensen, Austin Mahanke, Andrew Coonan, Olivia Kessler, Tara Blonigen and Luke Anderson. We also welcome Richard Jorgensen, Catechumen. It is also at this Mass where we begin the Dismissal: the time for the candidates to leave the Liturgy celebration to join a facilitator in studying more deeply the Sunday readings. Thank you to those parishioners who have come forward to share in this special time. **We are still looking for a few more people to facilitate these Dismissal times. If you'd like to sign up or desire more information, please contact Jodie Rubenzer.**

Please continue to check the website and the bulletin for other Spiritual Growth opportunities. If there is something you'd like to participate in, but not currently offered, please contact Jodie or the church office with suggestions.

ST. BRIDGET PARISH SCHOOL

Spirit Family Food Collection: St. Bridget students collected, and hand delivered 553 pounds of food to the River Falls Community Food Pantry on November 16! Great job!

Home & School Meeting – Dec. 4:

Our Home & School Association will meet Monday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Before/After Care room. All school parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Education Committee Meeting – Dec. 12:

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

Christmas Program – Dec. 14:

Save the date! St. Bridget students will present their Christmas Program in the school gym, Thursday, December 14, at 6:30 pm. Join us for a delightful evening of Christmas songs!

School Cook

St. Bridget School is in need of a school cook: great hours, great kids, great staff, great opportunity! Willing to train the right person. Contact Jeanne McCoy at principal@stbparish.com or call the school office at 715-425-1872 for more information. We have some great volunteers but would love to hire someone to replace this guy.



← He's already earned his wings!

Middle School students met with Mary Jo Copeland, founder of Sharing & Caring Hands, to deliver a check for \$730 raised through their Celtic Games service project.



ADVENT... READY THE WAY

A PRAYER FOR THE First Sunday of Advent

God of light and life,
give us hope as we wait
for your coming again.
When we are tempted
to be grateful to have found you
while others are lost,
send us out into the darkness
in search of those
who need you most.
Amen.

www.archtoronto.org



What is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is the visible symbol of the season of Advent. Advent means waiting for something wonderful to happen. The Jewish people waited for the Messiah who we know as Jesus the Christ. We as Christians try to call to mind how they waited for the Messiah through bible readings and prayers. The Advent wreath is a circle which has no beginning or end. God always existed — no beginning and no end. It is covered with evergreens — they are always the same color: green. God never changes and is always faithful. The four candles remind us of the many hundreds of years the Jewish people waited for the Messiah. Three candles are purple and one pink. The purple candles are more somber and reflective. The pink candle is on the Third Sunday of Advent and represents joy — we are getting close to Christmas!



TO REGISTER

Call: 715-234-5044 or
Email gbusse@catholicdos.org

Registration is
\$30/person,
(\$35 after Nov. 30)

Checks payable to
Diocese of Superior

Mail to:
Bishop Hammes Ctr.
PO Box 280
Haugen WI 54841

DECEMBER 15

ST. ANNE IN SOMERSET

141 Church Hill Road
Somerset, WI 54025
Registration starts at 9:00 am
Concludes at 3:00 pm

DECEMBER 16

ST. MARY IN TOMAHAWK

320 E. Washington Avenue
Tomahawk, WI 54487
Registration starts at 9:00 am
Concludes at 3:00 pm

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.

Moose Lodge Brunch

Sunday brunch with Santa to benefit Rocky Branch PTO on Sunday, December 10, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, ham, sausage, potatoes, coffee, juice, and milk. Cost \$9.00 / person. 5 yrs. and under free.

American Legion Bingo

Back for our 8th year. Next session is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1. Thereafter, 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.

Living Nativity

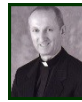
First Covenant Church presents "A Living Nativity" on Saturday, December 9, 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Drive thru as actors and live animals depict the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Location: 1374 North Main Street - enter from Quarry Street.

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 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, hsleader@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

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