

St. Bridget Catholic Community

March 9th 2025 & March 16th 2025

The First and Second Sundays in Lent

From Darkness to Light



There was once a cave that lived underground, as most caves do. Since it had spent its entire life in darkness, it had never seen any light.

One day, a voice said to the cave, "Come up into the light. Come and enjoy the sunlight."

The cave replied, "I do not know what you mean by light. All I have ever known is darkness."

"Come and see for yourself," said the voice.

The cave mustered up enough courage to climb slowly up from the depths of the earth. Suddenly, it reached the top of the earth and was surrounded by magnificent light, which the cave had never seen in its life.

"This is beautiful," said the cave. After enjoying the light for a while, the cave said to the sunlight, "Now it's your turn to come with me and see the darkness."

"What is the darkness?" asked the sunlight. The cave answered, "Come and see for yourself."

So, the sunlight decided to visit the cave's home. As the sunlight entered the cave, it said, "Now show me your darkness." But, with the sunlight, there was no darkness to be found!

The story tells of a cave that had only known darkness until it courageously ventured out into the sunlight, experiencing light for the first time. Amazed by the beauty of the light, the cave invited the sunlight to see its darkness. However, when the sunlight entered the cave, the darkness disappeared. The cave's journey from darkness to light symbolizes the transformation that comes with stepping out of our comfort zones and embracing new experiences.

The story illustrates how light dispels darkness, much like how love, kindness, and faith can overcome fear, ignorance, and sin. As followers of Christ, we are called to be the light of the world, spreading goodness and love. By sharing our talents and helping others, we grow in our faith and receive God's love.

Lent is a time to examine the areas of our lives where we need to step out of darkness and enter into the light. Engage in practices such as **prayer**, **fasting**, and **almsgiving** to deepen your relationship with God and one another.

-Fr. Balaraju Policetty

St. Bridget Website



Church Office Hours:

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

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Phone (715)-425-1870

Pastoral Emergency

(651) 300-4028

www.saintbridgets.org

Immaculate Conception Hammond Mass Times

Tuesdays: 5PM Confessions; 5:30 PM Mass

Fridays: 8AM Mass; 8:30 Confessions

Thursdays: 8AM Mass

Saturdays: 7PM Mass

Sundays: 8AM Mass

WEEKLY MASSES & EVENTS	
MARCH 9TH-MARCH 16TH	
Sunday, March 9th: The First Sunday in Lent	
8:45 a.m.	Rosary
9:30 a.m.	Mass - Betty & Max Merriman+
11:00 a.m.	Mass- Mike Maier+
Monday, March 10th	
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m.	Grief Group Bakken Young
7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus meeting
7:00p.m.	Community Prayer Group
Tuesday, March 11th	
7:45 a.m. - 7p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
8:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Lenten Bible Study
4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:30 p.m.	Mass- Mary & Leonard Froelke+
7:30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 12th	
9:00 a.m.	School Mass- Doris Langer+
3:15 p.m.	7-8 Faith Formation
3:30 p.m.	Mass- <i>Kinnic</i>
5:00 p.m.	Faith Formation Meal
5:30 p.m.	3-6 Per Grade Class
6:30 p.m.	Reconciliation-Faith Formation
6:30 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study
6:45 p.m.	Grades 7-11 Faith Formation
Thursday, March 13th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- St. Bridget, St. Mary's, & St. Thomas More Newman Center
7:00 p.m.	Well Read Mom
7:00 p.m.	SATB Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 14th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- Jacqueline Heit+
2:45 p.m.	School Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 15th	
7:30 a.m.	Men's Group
4 - 4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Mass- Laurie Germanson+
Sunday, March 16th- The Second Sunday in Lent	
8:45 a.m.	Rosary
9:30 a.m.	Mass - Colleen Kealy+
11:00 a.m.	Mass- Brian Sr., Shelli & Brian Baschnagel+
In Remembrance	
Geraldine Langer: Mother of Gary Langer	

WEEKLY MASSES & EVENTS	
MARCH 17TH-MARCH 23RD	
Monday, March 17th	
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
6:00 p.m.	Grief Group Bakken Young
6:00 p.m.	DivorceCare
7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer Group
Tuesday, March 18th	
7:45 a.m.-7p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
8:00a.m.	Centering Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Martha's Quilt Group
9:30 a.m.	Lenten Bible Study
3:00 p.m.	Mass-Wellhaven
4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:30 p.m.	Mass - Gary Arman+
Wednesday, March 19th	
9:00 a.m.	No School Mass (Spring Break)
1:30 p.m.	Mass-Our House
	NO FF SPRING BREAK
6:30 p.m.	Lenten Bible Study
Thursday, March 20th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- St. Bridget, St. Mary's, & St. Thomas More Newman Center
7:00 p.m.	SATB Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 21st	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 am.	Mass- Dorothy Maule+
7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 22nd	
4 - 4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Mass - Deceased Members of the Gavin & Wirth Families+
Sunday, March 23rd-The Third Sunday in Lent	
8:45 a.m.	Rosary
9:30 a.m.	Mass - Jack Brown+
11:00 a.m.	Mass- David Heinisch+

"By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19



DAILY WORD

DAILY WORD FOR MARCH 9TH-MARCH 16TH

Sunday, March 9th	Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13 / Luke 4:1-13
Monday, March 10th	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 / Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday, March 11th	Isaiah 55:10-11 / Matthew 6:7-15
Wednesday, March 12th	Jonah 3:1-10 / Luke 11:29-32
Thursday, March 13th	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 / Matthew 7:7-12
Friday, March 14th	Ezekiel 18:21-28 / Matthew 5:20-26
Saturday, March 15th	Deuteronomy 26:16-19 / Matthew 5:43-48
Sunday, March 16th	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1 / Luke 9:28b-36

DAILY WORD FOR MARCH 17TH-MARCH 23RD

Monday, March 17th	Daniel 9:4b-10 / Luke 6:36-38
Tuesday, March 18th	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 / Matthew 23:1-12
Wednesday, March 19th	2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 / Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Thursday, March 20th	Jeremiah 17:5-10 / Luke 16:19-31
Friday, March 21st	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a / Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday, March 22nd	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 / Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday, March 23rd	Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 / Luke 13:1-9

PRAYER LIST

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, contact Pat Purfeerst at: ppurfeerst@gmail.com or 715-222-9533.

Michelle Radtke	Kaye McFarland
Linda Radtke	Jim McFarland
Tony Jilek	Richard Andrea
Boyd Huppert	Beverly Benson
Dorie Deiss	Mary Parsons
Donna Pechacek	Robb Scott
Mary Ellen Vorwald	Miranda Carlson
Barb Ickler	Patricia Bujalski
John Benusa	Robert R. Raehsler
Emily Hennemann	Matt Huppert
Jeanne Rohl	Carol Ann Gregg
Andre Armstrong	Richard Bujalski
Marge Dusek	Ryan Sell
Missy Tarnowski	Fred Larson
Kathleen Brown	Virginia Steiner
Sonia Steiner	Angela Tatone
Russ Henke	Dan Reis
Raphael Timp	Bernice Deiss
Stanley Meyer	Kevin Cegielski
Judy Pechacek Harr	Meg Byram
Sunita Johnston	Ed Hanson

TITHES & OFFERINGS

February 23, 2025

Adult Contributions	\$8,322
Loose Collection	\$876
Scrip Rebates	\$225

March 2, 2025

Adult Contributions	\$25,570
Loose Collection	\$669
Scrip Rebates	\$425

PARISH LIFE

Scam Email Alert

Fake email gift-card scams are still circulating. If you receive an email asking for gift-cards or other related purchases on behalf of a staff member, please contact Fr. Bala (pastor@stbparish.com) or the parish office before responding.

Thank you!



Job Openings!

We are hiring for a Liturgical Ministries Coordinator and a part-time accompanist to play on a rotating basis with our current accompanist. Visit our website or contact the parish office for more information!

Safe Haven Sunday: March 8th 9th

Equipping the Family: Having Critical Conversations

The most powerful tool we have when it comes to teaching our children about the beauty of their sexuality in the digital age is conversation. Real, honest, “look them in the eyes” conversations about their deep questions. In the digital age, passive parenting is not an option—the internet never rests. St. Bridget is setting aside time **March 8,9** to celebrate our second annual Safe Haven Sunday in order to provide free resources to assist you with confidently talking to your children about internet dangers, as well as their online and offline choices. Safe Haven Sunday is celebrated through prayer and reflection within the context of the Mass. After Mass, there will be copies of Covenant Eyes’ book, *Confident: Helping Parents Navigate Online Exposure* for you to take home. This book includes a free seven-day text-to-opt-in program that provides practical tips for caring adults to create safer digital environments for themselves and young people. **Simply text SECURE to 66866** to begin receiving guidance today! Thank you for celebrating with us! If you have any questions about this awareness weekend, please contact the parish office or visit our website.



PARISH LIFE

SATB Choir

This is an invitation to sing with the SATB Choir for Lent and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals will begin on Thursday, March 6.

The choir will rehearse from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Join us in singing praise to the risen Lord!

Questions: Contact Marlys Mueller (715-425-9621)

Thank you!

The 3rd Annual Knights for Dads Rally was another great success, with over 140 men attending from 31

different communities in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. Joe

Farris and Luke Spehar were inspirational speakers.

Thanks to these great people for their generous donations to the rally:

Joany Fund-St. Bridget Parish

Somerset KC Council 6759

Hudson KC Council 1762

Hammond KC Council 7030

Big River KC Council 17135

Elmwood KC Council 6599

Spring Valley KC Council 17459

Prescott KC Council 7342



Sue Fritz: Marketing

Meg Andrea: Graphic Design

Marlyse Dusek: Folders

For a great rally venue:
St. Bridget Parish

Strategic Planning Survey

Please take a moment to fill out our Strategic Planning Survey accessible through the link & QR code below. This survey will aid our Strategic Planning Committee in creating objectives that represent our parish community, so your participation is greatly appreciated!

Link:

<https://forms.gle/Yczkkr44sfdAEsxJ8>



PARISH LIFE

Vacation Bible School

Students going into grades K-5 next fall are invited to Vacation Bible School the second week of June, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. This year's theme is ***"TRUE NORTH: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World."*** Registration opens April 1. Keep an eye out for exact dates and more information coming soon! Contact Tessa in the church office with questions.



Scrip Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers needed to sell Scrip Gift Cards before and after the 11 a.m. mass. Please consider donating about 1 hour of your time to help with this vital fundraiser for our Parish. Please fill out a Scrip volunteer form at the Scrip Sales Desk in the Fellowship Hall or contact the Parish Office of your interest. Thank you!

Social Justice

Food Pantry Needs:

Cereal
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Paper Products
Baby Diapers - largest size



Green Team

Spring is right around the corner -- that time of year when we all decide to spruce up our homes and get rid of things we no longer need. Before you throw unused items in the trash (to end up in a landfill) determine what can be recycled or used by someone else. Places to recycle items: electronics collection points; thrift stores; animal shelters; medication collection points; recycling centers.

Happy cleaning!

St Croix Co Recycling & Collection Events:

www.sccwi.gov/420/recycling

Pierce Co Recycling & Collection Events:

https://www.co.pierce.wi.us/departments/solid_waste__recycling/index.php

Unused & Expired Medication Collection Sites:

Pierce & St Croix Co Sheriff Offices

Electronics (phones, computers, etc.): Best Buy.

PARISH SCHOOL

Things have calmed down a bit after the excitement of the Gala, and now we're eagerly anticipating all the wonderful events on the horizon!

Thank you once again for all the incredible support our school received, which



contributed to the overwhelming success of the Gala. While the final numbers are still being tallied, we have an estimated amount of ***\$129,000*** raised, before expenses. **AMAZING!** Our school is extremely grateful.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our school or has any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call at **715-425-1872** to schedule a tour—we'd love to show you around! Enrollment is open.

Spring break is coming up, **March 17th-21st**, so mark your calendars!

Rehearsals are in full swing for our spring musical *Frozen*, and the energy is buzzing! Stay tuned for more details!

As we journey through this Lenten season, may it be a time of reflection, growth, and renewal. Let us embrace the opportunities to deepen our faith, strengthen our resolve, and grow in compassion and understanding. May this season bring peace and meaningful transformation to each of us as we seek to draw closer to God and live with purpose.





Lenten Schedule for St. Bridget 2025



Ash Wednesday Services:

Tuesday, March 4:

St. Bridget, River Falls, Mass & Distribution of Ashes 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5:

St. Bridget, River Falls, Mass & Distribution of Ashes 9:00a.m.

St. Bridget, River Falls, Mass & Distribution of Ashes 7:00p.m.

Lenten Reconciliation Services:

St. Bridget, River Falls – Wednesday, April 9th 6:45 p.m.
(several Priests available)

Individual Reconciliation Times (in Confessional)

Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays (except April 8) 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Fridays 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 18 11:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.



Beginning Friday, March 7 through Friday, April 11

St. Bridget, River Falls – Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

School Stations of the Cross—at Church

Fridays, March 14, 28, April 4, 11 2:45 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Faith Formation Stations of the Cross—in Church

Wednesday, April 2 4:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 5:30 p.m.

Holy Thursday Mass, April 17

St. Bridget, River Falls 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Services, April 18

St. Bridget, River Falls 12:00 Noon

St. Bridget, River Falls, Vespers 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday Night, April 19

St. Bridget, River Falls 8:45 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20

St. Bridget, River Falls 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Any changes to the schedule will be in the bulletin & announced at Mass.

PARISH LIFE

Fasting and Abstinence Regulations

Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and on Good Friday. Everyone between 18 and 59 years of age is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Besides the abstention from meat, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday only one full meal is allowed. If truly needed to maintain necessary strength, up to two very small meals may be also be taken, but together these additional meals should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted.

Good Friday Men's Choir

All men are invited to sing at the noon service on Good Friday, April 18. Rehearsals will be 6:00 p.m., Thursday April 3, and April 10, and Tuesday, April 15. Simply show up for rehearsal or contact George Hanson at 715-220-7297 with any questions.

Video Ministry Help Needed

We are in need of video operators to provide support for our weekend and special Masses/Services. Video operators provide live streaming for those unable to join us in church, camera feeds to our overflow areas and the PowerPoint for our music and prayers that are on the screen. Training and mentorship are provided. Contact Barrett in the office for details or to begin training.

DivorceCare Group!

DivorceCare group will meet Monday evenings March 17th through June 16th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Westview room at St. Bridget Church. To register go to www.divorcecare.org/groups/257823

Catholic Jewelry Sale

Rosaries, medals and Catholic jewelry will be for sale by our youth after the Masses April 4-5, and 12-13 in the Garden View Room. These items make great gifts for Easter, First Communion, Confirmation, and Mother's Day! This sale will help 27 youth attend Extreme Faith Camp this summer. Thank you for your support!



PARISH SCHOOL



We are beyond grateful to everyone who played a part in making our Gala, our biggest fundraiser, a resounding success. Your support means the world to us, and we truly couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. From our generous sponsors and donors to the tireless volunteers, dedicated staff, and the incredible support from the church community – you all made it happen! There was no shortage of fun and energy as we gathered together to raise vital funds for OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE. Your contributions will have a lasting impact, and we are so thankful for your commitment to this cause. Thank you for being a part of something truly special. Together, we are making a difference!

PREK

Enrollment Now Open!

- PreK Full Time
4/5 year olds - 5 days \$5,700
- PreK Full Time
3/4 year olds - 5 days \$6,100
-
- PreK Part Time
4/5 year olds - 3 days \$4,300
- PreK Part Time
3/4 year olds - 3 days \$4,620

*PreK students must be 4 by September 1, 2025 and fully independent in the bathroom.
***PreK students must be 3 by June 1, 2025 and fully independent in the bathroom.

principal@stbparish.com <https://www.saintbridgets.org/school/registration.cfm>

PARISH LIFE

Altar Server Help Needed

We need volunteers for our Altar Server ministry. Open to students in grade 5 through Adult. Help is especially needed for all weekend Masses but especially our Saturday 5pm and Sunday 11am Masses and Holy Week Masses/Services. This is a great ministry for our youth but is also a great way for parents to serve with their children or as a husband/wife tandem! Training is provided and you will be put on the schedule for your preferred Mass time. Contact Barrett in the office for details.

St. Bridget Catholic Church Contact Information



Fr. Balaraju Policetty, Pastor
Office (715) 425-1879 ext. 103
Emergency: (651) 300-4028
pastor@stbparish.com



Fr. Joseph Anil Kumar Pasala, Associate Pastor
Office (715) 425-1879 ext. 103
franil@smicparish.org



Deacon Dan Kohler
715-425-1870



Deacon John Woehrle
715-425-1870
deaconjohn@stbparish.com



Barrett Grove, Parish Administrator
715-425-1879 ext. 102
parishadmin@stbparish.com



Lindsey Andrea, Administrative Assistant
715-425-1870 ext. 101
recept@stbparish.com



Sophie Kolars, Communications Coordinator
715-425-1879 ext. 111
communications@stbparish.com



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



Coordinator of Liturgical
Ministries



Jodie Rubenzer, Discipleship and Spiritual Growth
715-425-1879 ext. 110
spiritualgrowth@stbparish.com



Mike Leary, Principal
principal@stbparish.com
715-425-1879 ext. 201



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



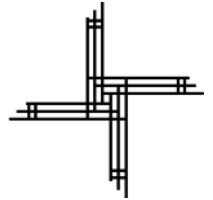
Adrian Amundsen
Housekeeping



Tessa Schuermann, Prek-8th grade Faith Formation
715-425-1879 ext. 106
childrensFF@stbparish.com



Jessie O'Malley, 9-12th grade Faith Formation
715-425-1879 ext. 105
teenFF@stbparish.com



News from St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Hammond

News from St. Thomas More Newman Center



Mallory Schneider, Campus Minister
St. Thomas More-Newman Chapel, UWRF
715-425-7234 campusminister@uwrfnewman.org