

# ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2



## Mass Schedule

### St. Bridget

Tuesday  
5:15 p.m.

Wednesday  
9:00 a.m.

Friday  
8:00 a.m.

Saturday  
5:00 p.m.

Sunday  
9:30 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

### Newman Chapel

6:00 p.m.

From the pastor...

[Jesus said,] "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them." Matthew 5:3

A Hindu parable concerns two friends: a mud pie and a dry leaf. One day, they decide to pilgrimage to the holy city of Benares. Knowing the wind and the rain will be their enemies on the pilgrimage, they devise a plan for protection. When the wind blows, the mud pie will sit on the dry leaf; and when the rain pours, the leaf will sit on the mud pie to keep it dry. The plan worked fine until the wind blew and the rain poured at the same time. The result? The leaf blew away and the mud pie dissolved into nothingness.

To be "poor in spirit" means to realize that we cannot go through life alone. There will be times when even our friends can't help us. We will need God.

[Jesus said,] "I am the vine and you are the branches... You can do nothing without me." John 15:5  
VISION 2000 Mark Link, S.J.

## Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Monday  
8:00 a.m.

Thursday  
5:15 p.m.

## Reconciliation

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

## Adoration

Tuesday  
8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

## St. Mary's - Hammond Mass Schedule

**Saturday**      **Sunday**  
7:00 p.m.      8:00 a.m.

### Reconciliation

Sunday  
7:00 - 7:30 a.m.

[www.saintbridgets.org](http://www.saintbridgets.org)

## No Common Cup for Communion for Now

Due to the continuing flu season and now the "coronavirus" that originated in China we will continue not to have the "common cup." We hope to return to the practice in the spring. Thanks for your understanding.

## St. Mary's Faith Formation Position Grades 7-11 is Open

Pat Klein is retiring from her position as Faith Formation Coordinator for grades 7-11. God bless you, Pat, for your wonderful work and dedication.

We are now actively recruiting a new person for this position. Overview of this position: The main focus of this position is to lead and coordinate the educational programs of the parish for grades 7 - 11. Working collaboratively with other members of the parish staff and volunteers, the coordinator is responsible for the inclusion of youth and young adults in all facets of parish life. A complete job description is available upon request. Please contact Fr. Harris or Todd Edelman at the church office. Fr. Harris

## Scrip Available in the Office:

Monday: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Friday: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Scrip is available in the  
Fellowship Hall before and  
After all Masses**

## Office Hours & Information:

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
211 E Division St • PO Box 86  
River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-1870  
[recept@stbparish.com](mailto:recept@stbparish.com)

## Pastoral Emergency:

715.869.6122

# CALENDAR AND DAILY WORD

## Monday, February 3 - 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/ Mk 5:1-20

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion  
5:00 p.m. Parish School Girls Home Basketball Game  
6:30 p.m. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible Study*  
6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Sub-Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, February 4 - 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Mk 5:21-43

8:30 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
9:30 a.m. Martha's Quilt Group  
5:15 p.m. Mass  
*+Int: Scott Schellhaass by the Reuther Family*  
5:45 p.m. YogaDevotion  
6:30 p.m. Doris Murphy Lecture  
7:00 p.m. Life in the Spirit Growth and Transformation Meeting

## Wednesday, February 5 - 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6

Meals from the Heart Packing Event

8:00 a.m. Centering Prayer  
9:00 a.m. School Mass  
*+Int: Arlene Siewelo by Jim and Carol Murphy*  
1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion  
Kinnic Home  
1:30 p.m. Mass - Comforts of Home - Falls  
*Int: Max and Betty Merriman*  
3:15 p.m. Afternoon Middle School Faith Formation  
5:00 p.m. Grade 3 - 5 Faith Formation  
6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Practice  
6:30 p.m. Grade 6 - 11 Faith Formation Classes  
7:45 p.m. Praise Team Practice



## Thursday, February 6 - 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk 6:7-13

1:00 p.m. Women's Euchre Group  
1:30 p.m. Mass - Wellhaven  
*+Int: Gordy Pechacek by family and friends*  
5:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion  
7:00 p.m. SATB Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m. RCIA

## Friday, February 7- Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29

8:00 a.m. Mass *+Int: Anne Marie Mischler by family*  
9:00 a.m. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible Study*

## Saturday, February 8 - 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34

8:00 a.m. Catholic Watchmen  
9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry  
5:00 p.m. Mass *+Int: Ruth Koehler by family*  
7:00 p.m. Spanish Mass - Hammond

## Sunday, February 9 - Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

8:45 a.m. Rosary  
9:30 a.m. Mass *+Int: Donald Cobian by Gene and Donna Andrie*  
11:00 a.m. Mass  
*Int: Churches of St. Bridget and St. Mary's*  
6:00 p.m. Mass at St. Thomas More - Newman Center UWRF  
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group



## Rest in Peace

Mary Ann Maier

Roger Bruggeman

## Radio Mass Sundays at 9 a.m.

WEVR 1550 AM/106.3 FM

February 1  
is in loving memory of  
*Deceased members of the  
Leo and Elsie Schmidt Family*



## 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, call Virginia Magner at 715-684-2336.

Laura Bowman	Izabella Thompson
Rod Cina	Sonia Steiner
Michael Goodman	Steve Alberg
Linda Giardina	Grace Radtke
Judy Pechacek Harri	Kendra Behnam
Ann Holland	Jennifer Joy
Barb Ickler	Mary Purkapile
Ray Belisle	Shari Allenbach
Joseph Pentusa	Gordon Mathiason
Michelle Radtke	Elaine Steeg
	Alice Kieth

## TITHES AND OFFERING

WEEK OF JANUARY 27

Adult Contributions	\$16,607.00
Loose Collection	\$780.61
Future Parish Needs	\$589.66
SCRIP Rebates (55 orders)	\$522.80

### Pro-life Information Available

There is Pro-life information called "Another Look at Abortion" and "What to do When a Friend is Considering Abortion." As a community we need to be aware of women/families that need all the support that is available for women who are in need. Pro-life is not just a phrase it is concrete compassion and support.

# PARISH LIFE



## Seventh Annual Doris H. Murphy Memorial Lecture "No Contribution Is Too Small"

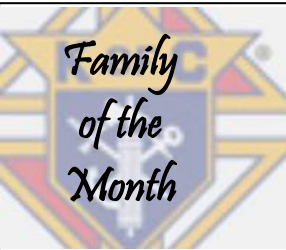
Tuesday, February 4  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Presenter: Christine Newkirk

Chris will help participants explore how to call forth the best from people by facilitating the discovery of their giftedness and empowering them to use those gifts for the common good. This lecture will have useful information for teachers, parents, leaders, and for all of us who live or work or volunteer with others.

### Knights of Columbus Scholarships Available!

Our River Falls Knights of Columbus Council 4902 will be awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to two 2020 graduating high school seniors. Applications are available in the River Falls High School Counselor's Office (also available from Doug Weiss). Applications must be completed and returned to the Counselor's Office, or Doug Weiss (715-425-2355), no later than mid-February (final date TBD). Refer to the application for instructions and qualifications.



Congratulations

*Gene and Deb Cernohous*  
as the Knights of Columbus  
January family of the month!

### Sustainability Tips from the Green Team

It takes a lot of energy to turn that cold water from the tap into hot water. A water heater is just a closed column to store the heated water. The ideal temperature is about 120 degrees. Also, wait until there are full loads of clothes or dishes before running those appliances. Just remember that heating water is the biggest use of energy.



### Pancake Supper at St. Bridget

Tuesday, February 18 ~ 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy pancakes (including gluten free), ham, eggs, fresh fruit, coffee and milk. Freewill offering to benefit Our Neighbor's Place.



### New Ministry

Volunteers in this ministry will share God's love and send cards of encouragement to those who are ill, hospitalized, in a nursing care facility, or homebound. If you know of someone in need of a 'ray of sunshine', contact Lynn Simons, at 715-425-1870 ext. 109 or [connections@stbparish.com](mailto:connections@stbparish.com).



### The Gathering - Stress Less In 2020



Tuesday, February 11  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Luncheon to follow  
Presenter: Selena Freimark

Learn these self-care skills in the new year to decrease stress and increase well-being:

- Meditation
- Deep breathing
- Guided imagery
- Gentle stretches

Sign up at the information desk.

### Volunteer Communion Ministers Comforts of Home

We have a growing population of Catholics at Comforts of Home - Falls and the other residences. They came to Church faithfully for many years and now Church needs to come to them. We are in need of more Eucharistic Ministers for Comforts of Home. If you can help please contact. Fr. Harris



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### ARISE Together in Christ

Season II begins the week of Ash Wednesday. Prayerfully consider "encountering Jesus" as you join others from our parish family journeying through Lent. Form your own group or join one that will be offered. Sign up cards are now available at the desk. Please fill it out and return for accuracy in forming groups and ordering material.

**Sign up  
cards now  
available!**



FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Shot on location in France, this film is highly recommended by the Vatican as a "sensitive portrayal of a very moving story that deserves a wide audience," and was chosen to be shown daily at the shrine in Lourdes to retell the epic story.

### Bernadette

St. Bernadette and the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes



WATCH ON FORMED.ORG

POWERED BY THE HOLY TRINITY

## FAITH FORMATION

### First Communion Registration



If you have a child in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or beyond who would like to prepare for First Communion this spring, please contact Diane at (715) 425-1870 x 105, or email [ChildrensFF@stbparish.com](mailto:ChildrensFF@stbparish.com).

### Packing Meals at St. Bridget

This Wednesday, February 5, the students of our parish school and our faith formation classes will work with Meals From The Heart, here in the church Fellowship Hall, to pack 50,000 meals for local food pantries. Thank you to all who have contributed to pay for the ingredients of the meals. If you would like to help, you can still drop off a donation in the church office. Thank you!



## PARISH SCHOOL



### Registration is Now Open!

Join our parish school family for the 2020-2021 school year!

More information can be found at <https://www.saintbridgets.org/school/> or contact the school office.

### Gala tickets are still on sale!

Join us February 22 for our largest fundraiser and help us celebrate our parish school! Tickets can be purchased after Masses or on-line [here](#). !



## St. Bridget Church



Fr. Gerald Harris, Pastor

715-425-1879 ext. 103, [pastor@stbparish.com](mailto:pastor@stbparish.com)



Fr. Richard Rhinehart, Associate Pastor

715-425-1870 [frich@stbparish.com](mailto:frich@stbparish.com)



Megan Carlson, Parish Administrator

715-425-1879 ext. 102, [parishadmin@stbparish.com](mailto:parishadmin@stbparish.com)



Tammy Pitzen, Office Assistant

715-425-1879 ext. 101, [recept@stbparish.com](mailto:recept@stbparish.com)



Susan Landry, Accountant

715-425-1879 ext. 104, [accountant@stbparish.com](mailto:accountant@stbparish.com)



Diane Wengelski, Elementary Faith Formation

715-425-1879 ext. 105, [childrensFF@stbparish.com](mailto:childrensFF@stbparish.com)



Tessa Schuermann, Teen Faith Formation

715-425-1879 ext. 106, [teenFF@stbparish.com](mailto:teenFF@stbparish.com)



Amy Burns, Youth Minister

715-425-1879 ext. 107, [youthminister@stbparish.com](mailto:youthminister@stbparish.com)



Barrett Grove, Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries

715-425-1879 ext. 108, [liturgy@stbparish.com](mailto:liturgy@stbparish.com)



Jodie Rubenzer, Discipleship and Spiritual Growth

715-307-2524, [spiritualgrowth@stbparish.com](mailto:spiritualgrowth@stbparish.com)



Meg Andrea, Website and Communications

715-425-1879 ext. 111, [media@stbparish.com](mailto:media@stbparish.com)



Randy Koller, Maintenance

715-425-1879 ext. 112, [facilities@stbparish.com](mailto:facilities@stbparish.com)



Lynn Simons, Connections Minister

715-425-1879 ext. 109, [connections@stbparish.com](mailto:connections@stbparish.com)

Church Kitchen: 715-425-1879 ext. 117

Lubich Hall: 715-425-1879 ext. 118

## St. Bridget Parish School



Brenda Steward, Principal

715-425-1872, [principal@stbparish.com](mailto:principal@stbparish.com)



Hillary Gilles, Office Assistant

715-425-1872, [office@stbparish.com](mailto:office@stbparish.com)



# How to Build a Culture of Life

## THE PROBLEM .....

*Watching the news and reading the headlines, we may feel helpless seeing the heartbreaking lack of respect for human life. How do we respond when our efforts seem small in the face of the culture of death?*

## OUR CHRISTIAN IDENTITY .....

To understand more fully how to defend and protect human life, we must first consider who we are, at the deepest level. God creates us in his image and likeness, which means we are made to be in loving relationship with him. The essence of our identity and worth, the source of our dignity, is that we are loved by God: “We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.”<sup>1</sup>

We are called to divine intimacy, true communion with God, and we can grow in this closeness with him through daily prayer, reading the Scriptures, and frequent participation in the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist.

## OUR MISSION AS CHRISTIANS .....

The knowledge and realization of how deeply we are loved by God elicits a response of love that simultaneously draws us closer to God and, at the same time, impels us to share his love with others.

Embracing a relationship with God means following in his footsteps, wherever he may call. Just as Jesus invited St. Peter and St. Andrew to become his disciples, he invites us to do the same: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

Being a disciple of Jesus naturally includes sharing the Gospel with others and inviting them into a deeper relationship with God. As Christians, our identity and our mission are two sides of the same coin; like the apostles, we are called to be missionary disciples.

## MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP .....

This doesn’t necessarily mean quitting our jobs or moving to foreign countries. For most of us, our mission field is daily life: “Christ teaches us how to evangelize, how to invite people into communion with him, and how to create a culture of witness: namely, through love. A Christian life lived with charity and faith is the most effective form of evangelization.”<sup>2</sup>

The first step towards living this life is allowing Jesus to meet and transform us daily. If we respond to his grace, our lives will show we have something beyond what the world offers: we follow a person whose love changes our lives, so we want others to also experience his transforming love.

When we live in union with God, open to his prompting, we’re more able to see the opportunities for witness and his guidance in responding to these opportunities. We may fear doing the wrong thing or saying the wrong thing, but we do not need to be afraid. Jesus promised his disciples, “I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

## IDENTITY CRISIS .....

As a society and as individuals, we often measure ourselves by false standards: by what and how much we do, our successes or failures, how others treat us, the degree of our pleasure or independence, etc. And when these changeable substitutes prove to be insufficient, or when we are faced with challenges and suffering, we may feel helpless, alone, or abandoned; we may be tempted to feel as though our lives have decreased value or worth.

But God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather *whose* we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

### OUR RESPONSE .....

When someone is facing great trials, we need to meet them where they are, walk with them on their journey, intercede for them, and be open to sharing Christ’s love however he directs.

When a woman becomes pregnant, and her boyfriend threatens to leave if she continues the pregnancy, we need to lovingly walk with her. When family members or friends become seriously ill, we need to assure them that God still offers them something in this life, and they still have purpose. We need to consistently be with them every step of the way.

Sometimes our actions speak for themselves; other times, words are needed. Whatever the situation, Jesus knows

how to speak to each person’s heart; we simply need to follow where he leads.

### A CULTURE OF LIFE .....

This is how we answer our missionary call. This is how we build a culture of life, a culture that joyfully proclaims the truth of God’s love, purpose, and plan for each person. Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts and includes a willingness to be instructed and a desire to be close to Jesus—the source of joy and love.

When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.

Let us go, therefore, and not be afraid. God is always with us.

- 1 John Paul II, Homily, 17<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day, Downsview Park, Toronto, July 28, 2002.
- 2 USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, *Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization*. Copyright © 2012, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

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## UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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 People of Life |  @uscpcbprolife |  @ProjectRachel



View, download, or order the U.S. bishops’ pro-life materials!  
[WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESPECTLIFE](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/RESPECTLIFE)