

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.SAINTRIDGETS.ORG

THOUGHTS FROM FATHER HARRIS

From the pastor...

This church bulletin covers the weekends before and after Christmas. This includes the 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family and New Year's Day which is Mary Mother of God.

Christmas falls at the darkest time of the year. It is no coincidence. Why? Because in the darkest times of our lives we need hope. We need to believe that we will see our loved ones again in heaven and that they are safe. They are praying for us.

As Christmas Day draws near, there is hype and excitement. There are commercials on TV, radio, and the internet galore. "If you buy this or that: a new car, clothes, jewelry, Chia Pet, etc. you will be happy!" I am not saying gifts are not good. Nothing beats the joy on a child's face at Christmas when they open a gift (or even an adult for that matter).

Gifts are "external." Gifts are nice and show affection and love. But, real gifts are given inside us by Christ. Gifts like knowing we are forgiven no matter what we have done; we are loved exactly for who we are by the God who created us. That is the real meaning of Christmas: that God cares enough for us to send his son, Jesus, to show us how to live life to the fullest.

We always say welcome to our visitors and those that have come back home for Christmas. God bless you all. I pray your celebrations will be blessed and filled with faith in Christ. If you are looking for a church home "We've saved a place for you."

Hints for the holidays on dealing with grief and other emotions at Christmas Season

For those who suffered a death, divorce, physical move, or abuse, this past year or several years ago the grief is present. That may mean celebrating by doing the same traditions that brought comfort over the years. It may mean changing traditions to reflect the reality of the change.

One powerful tool is to "write your feelings" or "write a letter to the deceased." You obviously can't send it. But, you can go to a church or other special place and read the letter out loud. When it is read, simply tear it up. It may sound simple but it does provide a release for your feelings. If you need to talk just call me. There some articles called "Care Notes" in the information racks at both churches for those of us who have a tough time dealing with the holidays. If you would like one, please let me know and I can send them to you.

Fr. Harris will be away January 2 to the 8 for some rest and relaxation.

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.

Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Monday 8:00 a.m.
Thursday 5:15 p.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.

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

BAPTISM

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

Isabel Ann Ortega

Daughter of Sonja and David Ortega

REST IN PEACE

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

Bernice McAleavey

LaVerl 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 Magner at 715-684-2336.

Carmen Anderson	Kevin Larson
Linda Bertram	Sandra Lenagh
Marie Booth	Rosemary Lenzen
Heidi Borgstrom	Jack Linehan
Laura Bowman	Frances Meyer
Jerry Buscher	Gwen Paulson
Gary Carter	Joseph Pentusa
Shirley Clements	Larry Potton
Brian Dobel	Grace Radtke
Jo Dusek	Michelle Radtke
Michael Goodman	Dorothy Slivicki
Ann Holland	Marlys Smith
Barb Ickler	Gary Stern
Noah Keck	Rhys Sura
Diane Latterl	Izabella Thompson

Christmas Radio Mass Broadcasts

The radio broadcast is aired over WEVR 1550 AM and 106.3 FM on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for our sick and shut-ins. The 5 p.m. Mass on December 22 is memory of the Schneider, Petricka and Ritzinger families by the family. The 3 p.m. Mass on December 24 will be broadcast live and is in memory of the Goodman, Lepak, Koshal, Pizarevsky and Chien families by Tom and Jacquelyn Goodman. The 10 p.m. choir concert and 10:30 p.m. Mass on December 24 is in memory of Rita Mountain by the family and will be rebroadcast on December 25 at 10 a.m.

The Joany Shepard Library will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Christmas Thanks!

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make our Christmas celebrations here at St. Bridget and St. Mary! The musicians, cantors, adult choirs, teen group, children's choir, decorators, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, readers, Mass servers, greeters, dancers, people who set up chairs and others who take them down, the office and maintenance staff who do so much behind the scenes at both churches. God Bless You All. - Fr. Harris

Personal Thank you!

Thank you for all the well wishes, prayers and support along with gifts and cards this Christmas season. I am grateful to have such wonderful, faith-filled parishes. God bless you. Fr. Harris

Exodus 90 Days

Calling all men at St. Bridget & The Newman Center! This program will begin in January and end at Easter in April. Just in time for the Holy Season of LENT!

How it works: For 90 days, men learn to persevere, suffer and depend on God, above all else. Well-documented science tells us it takes a minimum of 90 days to break bad habits and addictions. The 90 days of Exodus aids men in beginning anew and preparing them for a life of greater virtue.

Prayer: Men adopt the discipline of daily prayer - taking on the story of the Israelites journeying from the slavery of sin into the freedom of the promised land. With a daily passage from the book of Exodus and a corresponding, written meditation, men discover the personal slavery preventing greater love of God and neighbor.

Asceticism: Learning to deny themselves, Exodus 90 men take up their cross, and learn to offer up cold showers, fasting from all alcohol, sweets, eating between meals, television and movies, televised sports, and more. In emptying themselves of modern comfort, noise, and vice, men dispose themselves greater to the voice and presence of God in their lives.

Fraternity - Men band together, in groups of four or more, for encouragement and accountability as well as to share difficulties and challenges through the 90 days. Weekly fraternity meetings provide the context for a virtuous brotherhood, serving to foster greater communion and friendship within, and after, the 90 days.

If interested check please check out Exodus90.com and let Fr. Rich know at FrRich@stbparish.com. We would begin in January and end at Easter. We would like to get a headcount to form groups and order materials. What will you become by day 91?

Monday, December 24 - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Lk 1:67-79

Church Office Closed

3:00 p.m. Mass

+Int: Goodman, Lepak, Koshal, Pizarevsky and Chien families by Tom and Jacquelyn Goodman

7:00 p.m. Mass

+Int: Anna, Walter and Garry Kitzmann by Sue Kitzmann

10:30 p.m. Mass

+Int: Rita Mountain by the family

Tuesday, December 25 - Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Church Office Closed

Church Building Closed after Mass

8:30 a.m. Mass

+Int: Lyle and Margaret Johnson by Max and Betty Merriman

Wednesday, December 26 - Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/
Mt 10:17-22

1:30 p.m. Mass at Comforts of Home - Lodge

+Int: Leo "Butch" Rohl by Romelle Kelly

Thursday, December 27 - 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

11:00 a.m. Funeral - LaVerl Huppert

1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
Wellhaven

3:00 p.m. Funeral - Bernice McAleavey

Friday, December 28 - 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

7:30 a.m. Rosary

8:00 a.m. Mass

+Int: Deceased members of the Schneider and Bowman Families by Tom and Kathy Bowman

Saturday, December 29 - 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

8:00 a.m. Dance Ministry

4-4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation

5:00 p.m. Mass

+Int: Tom Pitcock and Lorraine Deiss by the family

Sunday, December 30 - 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/1 Jn 3:1-2,
21-24/Lk 2:41-52

8:45 a.m. Rosary

9:30 a.m. Mass +Int: Alexis VanNurden by Jim and Patty Tricker, Ray Chelsei, Macie and Lily Reynaga

11:00 a.m. Mass

Int: Churches of St. Bridget & St. Mary's



Monday, December 31 - 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Church Office Closed

Church Building Closed

Tuesday, January 1 - Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Church Office Closed

Church Building Closed after Mass

9:00 a.m. Mass - Mary, Mother of God

+Int: Garry Kitzmann by Sue Kitzmann

Wednesday, January 2 - 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28

8:00 a.m. Centering Prayer

1:30 p.m. Mass at Comforts of Home - Falls

+Int: Bob Miller by Adelle Miller and family

1:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
Kinnic Healthcare

3:15 p.m. Afternoon Middle School Faith Formation

5:00 p.m. Grade 3 - 5 Faith Formation

5:30 p.m. Faith Formation Meal

6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Grade 6 - 11 Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, January 3 - 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34

1:00 p.m. Women's Euchre Group

1:30 p.m. Mass at Wellhaven

+Int: John Dusek by Dennis and Cindy Kusilek

5:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
St. Bridget Church

7:00 p.m. SATB Choir Practice

Friday, January 4 - 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42

7:30 a.m. Rosary

8:00 a.m. Mass

+Int: Cynthia Murphy by Gerald Murphy

Saturday, January 5 - 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51

8:00 a.m. Dance Ministry

4-4:30 p.m. Individual Reconciliation

5:00 p.m. Mass

+Int: Available

Sunday, January 6 - Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

8:45 a.m. Rosary

9:30 a.m. Preschool, K, First Grade Faith Formation

9:30 a.m. Mass +Int: Jerome and Leola Marek by Gene and Donna Andrie

11:00 a.m. Mass

Int: Churches of St. Bridget & St. Mary's

12:00 p.m. Life in the Spirit Overview - Session 1

TITHES AND FINANCIAL NEWS

December 16, 2018	
Adult Contributions	\$18,801.00
Future Parish Needs	\$506.00
Adult Contributions ACH	\$20,239.33
Loose Collection	\$979.69
SCRIP Rebates (150 orders)	\$1,142.58
School Tuition ACH	\$10,265.62

2018 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

In Loving Memory Of ...

- † Brandon Jensen, John Karras, JoAnne Jensen and Irene Johnson from Brad and Monica Jensen Family
- † The Johnson and St. Germain Families by Carolyn Johnson
- † Terry Helstad by Leonard and Mary Wiskerchen
- † Darold Dean Pechacek and Preston Orvold by Doris Pechacek and Constance Orvold Families
- † Deceased parents and grandparents by Ron and Mary Giles
- † Walter Wienke by Berneita Wienke Family
- † Alexis VanNurden by Jim and Patty Tricker Family
- † Clarence, Florence, John, Barb, Linda, Joseph and Peter Dusek by Marlys, Anita Dan and Tom Dusek
- † Wayne Deiss, Henry and Dorothy Reis and Joanne Smith by Dorie E. Deiss
- † Raymond and Irene Matzek, Fr. Bill Matzek, Donald and Alice Roberts and Steven Roberts by Norman and Matzek
- † Ben Dado by the family
- † Margaret Peterson, Loey Johnson and Ernie and Margaret Cernohous by Bill and Margie Cernohous
- † Emil and Margaret Langer, Frank and Hattie Holter, Ken, Gene and Larry Langer and Hannah Ducklow by Frank and Dori Holter
- † Matt, Rose, Bob and Craig Gradinjan by Wayne "Swede" and Kathy Svoboda
- † Edmund and Rose Huppert and the Shulte Family by Donald Huppert
- † Maurice and Virginia Schommer, Ronald Schommer and Charlene Cernohous by Randy and Roxy Koller Family
- † Cherie Ann Croes, George and Laura Johnson, Vernon and Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson and Joe and Emily Croes by Don and Arlene Croes
- † Denise Maier by Norman Maier Family
- † John Hanley by Darlene Hanley Family
- † Jim and Jo Vanda by Thomas and Barbara Belongia
- † Deceased members of the Elsie and Leo Schmidt Family by Tilly and Dennis Riemenschneider
- † Gary Karras, Marcella Ginsbach, Jim McNaughton, Irene Johnson and Ken Brookshaw by Jeff and Judy Brookshaw
- † Roman and Paula Pechacek and Raymond, Delores and Jerry Edgar by Rick and Barb Pechacek
- † Roman Pechacek by Delores and Janice Pechacek
- † The 28th anniversary of Pat Petricka's death by the family
- † Deceased members of the Stuttgen and Sunquist Families by the Stuttgen Family
- † Vernon and Betty Johnson, George and Laura Johnson, Lizzie and Richard Johnson, Jeanine Huppert, James Johnson and Francis Johnson by Karen and Ralph Young
- † Marilyn Celt, Lorin Beirne and Frank Deja by Jim and Wanda Celt
- † Gervase and Vera Maier by Barbara Maier O'Malley
- † Bob Vorwald and Barb Cernohous by Eunice Vorwald
- † Frank Deja, Loren Beirne and Frank and Rose Furlano by Marie Deja
- † Bill and Florence Hinders and Matt and Alyce Kunzweiler by Walt and Sharon Kunzweiler
- † Wanda, Marvin, Steven and Charlene Cernohous, Patricia Spray, Armand and Leona Mongeon and Janna Buchl by Gene and Debbie Cernohous
- † George Lovell, Paul Little and the living and deceased relatives of the Lovell and Langer Families by Hilda Langer Lovell
- † Curt and Chris Vorwald by Rick and Tina Graf
- † Deceased loved ones by Phil and Gale Koehler
- † Andrew Huppert and deceased members of the Huppert and Kusilek families by Janet Huppert
- † Ann DesLauriers by Leonard DesLauriers Family
- † Gordon and Lucille Cernohous and Harvey and Irene Johnson by the Cernohous and Johnson Families
- † Deceased family members of David and Jo-Ann Woeste Family

For those struggling with grief of a loved one the following may help:

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone we love.

And it would be wrong to try to find a substitute.

We must simply hold out and see it through.

That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation.
For the gap - as long as it remains unfilled - preserves the bond between us.

It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap.

God does not fill it but, on the contrary, keeps it empty
and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other.

Even at the cost of pain.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I feel so very blessed to be at St. Bridget, St. Mary's and the Newman Center for my first parish assignment. Thank you so much for all of your prayers, charity, and support which you have shown me upon my arrival last summer through this blessed Christmas season. It is my joy to serve all of you as a parish priest! Peace, blessings, and continued prayers to all of you and your loved ones! In Christ through Mary, Fr. Rich

Martha Group Quilters

The Martha Group will meet on Tuesday, January 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. come anytime; sack lunch optional. You need not be a member of St. Bridget to join us. We are looking for people who would like to sew at home using pre-cut quilt squares.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

If you have never attended this seminar come to an overview session of what Life in the Spirit is about. One session will be held on Sunday, January 6 noon to 1:00 pm and another will be held on Tuesday, January 8 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The Life in the Spirit seminar will be on Saturday, January 26, 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. The seminar talks will be presented by Fr. Gerald Harris and Peter Yurek. Guitarist, Mary Donahue, will be provide music and praise. Register at the information desk Cost is \$5 and lunch is provided.

There will also be a post meeting to discuss growth and transformation. Again two sessions will be offered: Monday, February 3 from noon - 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, February 5, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sixth Annual Doris H. Murphy Memorial Lecture

Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home: Transforming Your Life, Parish, and the World. Save the date - Tuesday, February 5, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The presenter will be Marybeth Lorbiecki.

Angels on Earth Giving Tree Program

A huge thank you to all who donated gifts, Scrip cards, money or volunteered their time for this project! There were 146 River Falls families served totaling 347 children. St. Bridget generously sponsored 51 of these families. Thank you for all being angels on earth!

Thank You

We would like to thank our family, friends and the entire congregation of St. Bridget for the use of the Fellowship Hall, the cards, phone calls but most of all the love and support you've given us these 70 years of marriage. Max & Betty Merriman

Tithing Notice

December tithing grants were awarded as follows: \$1,000 to the River Falls Area Food Shelf, \$500 to the Free Clinic, \$500 to Our Neighbors Place and \$250 to the Free Counseling Center.

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 on their behalf by anyone. Tithing applications are available in the parish office and on the parish website. Applications should be submitted to the Social Justice Committee for review and decision-making.

Knights of Columbus Raffle

The Wisconsin State council of Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a statewide charity raffle. The proceeds will be used to help support your brother Knights and other members of our community to alleviate sorrow, ease financial burdens and restore hope to victims and families of accidents and illness. Tickets will be on sale the weekend of December 29/30 in the Garden View Room.

 SPIRITUAL GROWTH

YogaDevotion

At St. Bridget beginning on January 8. This session will run 8 weeks ending on February 26. Sessions will be held from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Lubich Hall. This is a time to come together in community to combine yoga with prayer. The cost of this 8 week session is \$64.00 and payment is requested at the time of sign-up. Checks should be made out to Yoga Devotion. There will be a sign-up sheet at the information desk along with an envelope to leave your payment. Please call or email jrubenzer@stbparish.com with questions

COMPANIONS Along the Journey

Watch for details....beginning this Lent!

Centering Prayer

We will not meet for Centering Prayer on Wednesday, December 26th. We will resume again on Wednesday, January 2nd at 8:00 in the Garden View Room. Everyone is welcome.



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

2018 Contribution Statements

Church contributions must be postmarked no later than 12/31/18 to be credited to your 2018 statement. If you are planning on dropping off a contribution in the office, you will need to do so by 4 p.m. on December 28 because the church office will be closed on Monday, December 31. Contributions received after December 31 will be for 2019. Don't forget to make your year end contribution and CSA donation.

Safety and Security

We are continually looking at ways of improving the safety and security of our building and have determined that it is in the best interest to keep the south entrance locked at all times. This will begin the weekend of January 5/6. Those of you who park on the side streets are encouraged to enter from the east entrance (it's not much further). The south entrance will remain as an exit door – much like the southeast doors in the sanctuary – and can be used at any time when exiting. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Church/Office Hours

The church office will be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. The church building will be open most of the day on December 24 and during Mass times on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Facilities Committee

The St. Bridget Facilities Committee is seeking two additional members to assist the pastor and parish administrator in overseeing the maintenance of all campus facilities, providing a safe environment, assuring that the parish facilities are maintained in the most cost effective manner and to plan for future needs. Knowledge of heating, air conditioning, plumbing, or electrical systems and/or the techniques and materials required for general cleaning and maintenance of the building is helpful. If interested, please contact Sue in the office.

SCRIP

Thank you to everyone who participated in our **12 Days of SCRIP-ness!** It was a fun way to market our fabulous SCRIP program, to encourage new buyers, and to spread some Christmas cheer.

Congratulations to our winners: Carol Senn \$10 McDonalds; Karen Brunner \$20 Kwik Trip; Heather Beadles \$25 Copper Kettle; Barb Liddell \$20 Luigi's; Kelli Matzek \$25 Dick's Market; Eileen Baldeschwiler \$15 Kinni Café; Hillary Gilles \$25 Pearson Florist; Mackenzie Hoikka \$10 Selah Vie; Amy Tryba \$25 Family Fresh; Starla Dixer \$25 Dick's Hometown/Shell; Bill Wynn \$25 Kilkarney Hills; and Bob Casey \$25 Lori's Salon & Day Spa.



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation

Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 2, 2019, for grades 3-11. Sunday morning Faith Formation classes for grades prek-1 will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2019. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

First Communion Registration

We will have a registration meeting on Sunday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. for parents & youth in 2nd grade or beyond who wish to celebrate FC in the spring.

Sacrament of Confirmation Date is Set

Our 11th grade candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 5, 2019, at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.



PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

KC Christmas Poster Winners

Congratulations to McKenna Rohl (K), Emma Brunner (1), Matiss DeBoe (2), Emily Nagel (3), Gracie Hovde (4), Kelsi Beadles (5), Layla Sloan (6), and Rayne Santos (7) whose posters were selected as winners in the recent poster contest. In addition, these students' entries will be submitted at the next level of competition: (K-2): Mason Jeffery, (3-5): Evelyn Sykora, and (6-8): Maketalena Pupungatoa. Students were awarded a gift certificate from Fox Den Books, River Falls. Thanks to our Knights of Columbus for making this contest available!

Christmas Vacation

St. Bridget School will be closed December 24-January 1 for Christmas vacation. School resumes on January 2.

Full-Time Custodian Position

St. Bridget Parish School has an opening for a full-time custodian. Responsibilities include cleaning the school on a daily basis, performing usual custodial duties, monitoring safety and security of the building, ensuring safe operation and maintenance of heating system, preparing the facility for events, making minor repairs, coordinating annual inspections. Summer responsibilities include seasonal floor care & various projects related to readying the building for the next school year.

High School diploma minimum. Salary based on experience.

Submit resume, with references, to Jeanne McCoy, Principal, St. Bridget Parish School, 135 E. Division Street, River Falls, WI 54022.