

St. Bridget Catholic Community

November 30th & December 7th The First and Second Sundays in Advent

The Seasons of Advent and Christmas



Dear Friends in Christ, On **November 30th**, we joyfully enter the sacred season of **Advent** - a time of prayerful waiting, hope, and preparation. During these four weeks, the Church invites us to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, which took place over 2,000 years ago. At the same time, we strengthen our hope in Christ's return at the end of time, when He will come in glory.

Along with our regular schedule of Mass, adoration, and confessions, our parish will offer special Advent Reconciliation Services. Additional priests will be

available so that all may fully experience God's mercy and healing. May this season be a grace-filled journey for you and your family as we prepare to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Advent concludes on December 24th, and with the vigil of December 25th, we joyfully begin the season of Christmas. While Christmas is often surrounded by shopping, music, lights, and even Santa Claus, at its heart lies something far greater. The word *Christmas* comes from Christ-Mass: *the Holy Eucharistic celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ*, the promised Messiah and our Savior.

The true message of Christmas is that God is with us — Emmanuel. We are not alone. God comes close to us, walks with us, and unites us as one in Christ Jesus.

During the Christmas season, we also celebrate two great solemnities:

- Mary, Mother of God - January 1st
- The Epiphany of the Lord

The Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 11th, 2026. Ordinary Time then begins on January 12th, 2026. With Advent, we also commence a new Liturgical Year in the Church.

Please be assured of special prayers and remembrance for you and your family during our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a grace-filled New Year 2026.

-Fr. Balaraju Policetty

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: A Holy Day of Obligation

Monday, December 8th 2025 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have Mass here at St. Bridget at **5pm**.

Please note that we will not have a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion that day.

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

*we awaken faith,
build community,
and make disciples.*

St. Bridget Weekly Masses & Events...

NOVEMBER 30TH-DECEMBER 7TH	
Sunday, November 30th: The First Sunday in Advent	
8:15 a.m.	Rosary
9:00 a.m.	Mass - Morris Marsolek+
11:00 a.m.	Mass- St. Bridget, & St. Thomas More Newman Center
	<i>No Newmann Center Mass-Thanksgiving Break</i>
Monday, December 1st	
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.	DivorceCare
7:00p.m.	Community Prayer Group
Tuesday, December 2nd	
8:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
9 a.m. - 7p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
9:30 a.m.	Martha's Quilt Group
3:00 p.m.	Mass @ Bay Harbor of River Falls
4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Mass- Doug Lenzen+
Wednesday, December 3rd	
9:00 a.m.	School Mass- Intention Open
1:30 p.m.	<i>Mass @ Comforts of Home Falls</i>
3:15 p.m.	7th & 8th Grade Faith Formation
5:00 p.m.	Faith Formation Meal
5:30 p.m.	Kindergarten-6th Grade Faith Formation
6:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation
6:45 p.m.	7th-11th Grade Faith Formation
Thursday, December 4th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- Intention Open
1:00 p.m.	Euchre
2:30 p.m.	<i>Mass @ Comforts of Home Gardens</i>
7:00 p.m.	St. Bridget Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 5th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Healing Mass- Deceased Members of the Giefer Family+
6:00 p.m.	<i>Baptism Prep (2nd Child)</i>
6:30 p.m.	<i>Baptism Prep (1st Child)</i>
Saturday, December 6th	
7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
8:00 a.m.	Women's Prayer Group
9am-3pm	Holiday Happenings @ St. Bridget School Gym
3:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
4:00 p.m.	Mass- DeWayne Meyer+
Sunday, December 7th: The Second Sunday in Advent	
8:15 a.m.	Rosary
9:00 a.m.	Mass - Walter Wienke+
11:00 a.m.	Mass - Mary Frederickson+
6:00 p.m.	Newman Center Mass

DECEMBER 8TH-DECEMBER 14TH	
Monday, December 8th: Feast of Immaculate Conception	
	<i>No Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion</i>
5:00 p.m.	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass- Melita Graf+
6:30 p.m.	DivorceCare Meeting
7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer Group
7:00 p.m.	Knights of Columbus Meeting
Tuesday, December 9th	
8:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
9 a.m.-7 p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	Mass- Glenn Cobian+
6:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 10th	
9:00 a.m.	School Mass- St. Bridget, & St. Thomas More Newman Center
3:15 p.m.	7th & 8th Grade Faith Formation
3:30 p.m.	<i>Mass @ Kinnic</i>
5:00 p.m.	Faith Formation Meal
5:30 p.m.	Kindergarten-6th Grade Faith Formation
6:00 p.m.	Advent Reconciliation Opportunity
6:45 p.m.	7th-11th Grade Faith Formation
Thursday, December 11th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- James & Robert Schmidt+
7:00 p.m.	St. Bridget Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 12th	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	Mass- Jacqueline Heit+
Saturday, December 13th	
9:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation Celebration
3:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
4:00 p.m.	Mass- Andrew & Beatrice Graetz & Family Living & Deceased
5:00 p.m.	<i>Saintly Sips Fundraiser</i>
Sunday, December 14th: The Third Sunday in Advent	
8:15 a.m.	<i>Rosary</i>
9:00 a.m.	Mass - Jo-Ann Woeste+
10:00 a.m.	<i>Saintly Sips Fundraiser</i>
11:00 a.m.	Mass- Deceased Members of the Graf & Ross Families+
12:00 p.m.	<i>Saintly Sips Fundraiser</i>

In Remembrance

Albert "Bert" Russell, Father of Matt and Susan Russell

DAILY WORD

DAILY WORD: NOVEMBER 30TH-DECEMBER 7TH

Sunday, November 30th	Isaiah 2:1-5 , Romans 13:11-14 /Matthew 24:37-44
Monday, December 1st	Isaiah 4:2-6/Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday, December 2nd	Isaiah 11:1-10 /Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday, December 3rd	Isaiah 25:6-10a /Matthew 15:29-37
Thursday, December 4th	Isaiah 26:1-6 /Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Friday, December 5th	Isaiah 29:17-24 /Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday, December 6th	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 /Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday, December 7th	Isaiah 11:1-10 ,Romans 15:4-9 /Matthew 3:1-12

DAILY WORD: DECEMBER 8TH-DECEMBER 14TH

Monday, December 8th	Genesis 3:9-15, 20,Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 /Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday, December 9th	Isaiah 40:1-11 /Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday, December 10th	Isaiah 40:25-31 /Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday, December 11th	Isaiah 41:13-20 /Matthew 11:11-15
Friday, December 12th	Zechariah 2:14-17 /Luke 1:26-38
Saturday, December 13th	Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 /Matthew 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday, December 14th	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 ,James 5:7-10 /Matthew 11:2-11

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	Miranda Carlson
Linda Radtke	Patricia Bujalski
Dorie Deiss	Matt Huppert
Donna Pechacek	Carol Ann Gregg
Mary Ellen Vorwald	Richard Bujalski
Barb Ickler	Ryan Sell
John Benusa	Fred Larson
Emily Hennemann	Virginia Steiner
Jeanne Rohl	Angela Tatone
Andre Armstrong	Bernice Deiss
Marge Dusek	Ed Hanson
Missy Tarnowski	Kathy Vorwald
Kathleen Brown	Guillermo Guzmán
Sonia Steiner	Maverick
Raphael Timp	Wyatt
Stanley Meyer	Dr. Kathleen Delander
Judy Pechacek Harri	Patricia Meyer
Kaye McFarland	Chuck Kamrowski
Jim McFarland	Greg Wells
Richard Andrea	Wayne Staab
Jeff Carow	Josias Franco
Karla Furlano Berra	Rolly Janetski
Mary Parsons	Boyd Huppert
Robb Scott	

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November 16th, 2025

Adult Contributions	\$12,387
Loose Collection	\$999
Scrip Rebates	\$447
Adult Contributions (ACH)	\$21,996

November 23rd, 2025

Adult Contributions	\$11,186
Loose Collection	\$821
Scrip Rebates	\$615

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Parents expecting their first child will need to prepare for their child's Baptism by involving themselves in a Baptism session. Parents expecting their second child are highly recommended to review and consider their role in living out their Baptismal promises. *Sessions are held in the library on the first Friday of every month at 6:00pm for the second child, and at 6:30pm for the first child. Contact the office to join a session.*

Marriage

Participation in the marriage preparation process is a requirement for all couples seeking to be married. If you are interested in being married at St. Bridget Catholic Church, **the first step is to call the parish office** to secure your date. Marriage prep must be done 6 months in advance from your wedding date.

Order of Christian Initiation

OICA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the new name and is meant to invite candidates and catechumens into continuous process of spiritual formation. As we move to "order" we strive to prepare the candidate and catechumen for an ongoing faith journey that will continue throughout their lives. **Contact the office if you are interested in OICA.**

First Friday Anointing/Healing Mass

There will be an opportunity for anointing and healing on the first Friday of every month at the 8:00 am Mass. Contact the office if you have any questions.

Confession Times

Tuesdays: 4:30pm before the 5:00pm Mass.
Thursdays: 7:30am before the 8:00am Mass.
Fridays: 7:30am before the 8:00am Mass.
Saturdays: 3:30pm before the 4:00pm Mass.

Advent Reconciliation Opportunity

There will be an opportunity for Advent individual reconciliation starting at **6:00pm on Wednesday, December 10th.** This opportunity is for both faith formation families and the parish community.

PARISH LIFE

Christmas Decorations

We are looking for donations of fresh greenery that will be used to assemble decorative arrangements for our church for Christmas. If you have access to the following natural items, we would very much appreciate donations: fir, spruce, pine or cedar boughs, colorful branches like red twig dogwood, decorative branches with berries (i.e. holly, winterberry, rosehips). We will start accumulating these items as soon as you have them available. Please call Stephanie Knolmayer at 715-222-1864 to discuss details.

As always, we appreciate your generosity in helping add beauty to St. Bridget as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth.



Sharing Families Program

1. **Purchase a gift for a child.** The gift tree will be up in the lobby the weekend of November 22nd & 23rd, with ornaments listing gifts to be purchased. Gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 7, at noon. The gift should be unwrapped with the original ornament attached to it.
2. **Purchase a gift card.** The gift card tree will be in the Fellowship Hall with ornaments listing the card requested. Many of these cards are available through our SCRIP program.
3. **Purchase a grocery card.** Each family will receive a \$100 grocery gift card. These requests can be found on the gift card tree in the Fellowship Hall.
4. **Make a monetary donation.** All monetary donations will be used to purchase SCRIP cards needed for shopping and grocery cards. Cash is preferred and should be placed in an envelope labeled with your name and Sharing Families. Checks should be made payable to St. Bridget SCRIP with Sharing Families in the memo line. Contact the church office at 715-425-1870 or email recept@stbparish.com

Holiday Happenings Craft Fair

The Holiday Happenings Craft Fair is **December 6th, 2025.** It will be held in the parish school gym from **9am-3pm.** This is a perfect opportunity to buy the ones you love Christmas gifts!



PARISH LIFE

Christmas Mass Times at St. Bridget :
Christmas Eve: 4:00p.m. and 8:00p.m.
Christmas Day: 9:00a.m. (livestream and radio mass).

Blest Art at St. Bridget Parish

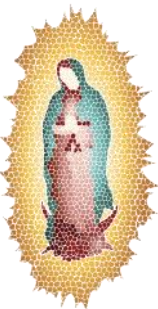
Blest Art will be visiting your parish on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Our mission is to support those families in the Holy Land. When Blest Art visits your parish, we will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. We gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards. Please visit our display at your parish, Saturday & Sunday, **December 20th & 21st, 2025** after each of the masses.

Christmas Flowers

If you have a loved one you want to commemorate with a Christmas flower, please send their name and a free will donation to the office. Their names will be put in the next bulletin for Christmas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Presentation

To help prepare our hearts for Christmas in the Advent season, we will be having a presentation on the Virgin of Guadalupe Miraculous Tilma & Juan Diego! This presentation will be given by John Rukavina, a Knights of Columbus member and parishioner at St. Mary's in Hammond! Mr. Rukavina has given this presentation previously at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception in Hammond.



Topics to be covered: bible connections, the story of the Tilma and Juan Diego, the Aztecs, Catholic Spain, and the Great Evangelization.

When: December 3rd | 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Liturgical Ministries Coordinator Position

We are hiring for the **Liturgical Ministries Coordinator** position.

If you're interested or know someone who might be, visit our website or contact the parish office for more information!

PARISH SCHOOL



It's been a wonderfully busy November here at St. Bridget Parish School, and we are excited to welcome the season of Advent! We are so grateful to everyone who contributes to the life, growth, and joy of our school.

To our dedicated teachers, our school and parish staff, the parents and families of our students, our parishioners, local businesses, and the many generous members of our community—thank you. Your gifts of time, prayer, support, love, and financial contributions truly make a difference.

All wreath and poinsettia orders have now been picked up! The greenery was beautiful this year, and we appreciate everyone who made a purchase.



Last week, our Spirit Family Mass was a joyful celebration, with Father Bala blessing the donations collected through our Diaper, Wipes, and Food Drive. Thanks to your generosity, all items were delivered to the River Falls Food Shelf.

Holiday Happenings is right around the corner, and we're excited to participate once again! Our 8th graders will be selling special items to help fund their graduation celebration, and the Athletic Department will offer concessions. Come shop local crafts and enjoy some delicious food served by our wonderful students!

We're also thrilled to share that ***Cheer has officially begun at St. B's!*** Be sure to catch our cheer team supporting our basketball players at upcoming games.

The Shoe Drive continues through the end of November, so there's still time to donate. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far—the students have already earned several pajama days thanks to your generosity!

And don't forget—our **aluminum can collection** is ongoing. Feel free to drop cans in the collection bin near the school driveway entrance.

Stay tuned! Our new bleachers will be installed the week of Thanksgiving, and we can't wait to put them to good use. A heartfelt thank-you to the donors who helped make this project possible.

We wish you a Thanksgiving filled with warmth, joy, and gratitude for the many blessings in our lives.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

Altar Server: November Ministry Spotlight

Why is altar serving such an important ministry? Altar servers play a vital role in the Mass by ensuring that the liturgy goes smoothly with reverence and consideration to all parts of the Mass. They act as key helpers to the priest by lighting the way up to the altar in the beginning of Mass, helping to prepare the Liturgy of the Eucharist by presenting the bread, wine & water, and also raising the congregations' hearts to Heaven through ringing of the bells at consecration (to name a few examples).

Read a testimony below from a parent of one of our altar servers here at St. Bridget below!

"I am the mother of Carter Olson. Carter has been serving as an Altar Server since he was in 5th grade (over 12 years). Carter grew up going to Saturday evening mass each week and has always loved St. Bridget's Church. He really wanted to try serving. He was able to do this with the help of his peers, and he quickly fell in love with the ministry. We feel very fortunate that the church is open to Carter serving in this way. We appreciate everyone's support and grace as he continues to serve."



Altar servers are trained to have an understanding of how the Mass works, and this training is offered to those who wish to become servers.

We would love to have **3** altar servers at each of our Masses here at St. Bridget. If you would like to fill in as an altar server, but not necessarily be on the schedule, we have a sign up on our website that you are able to fill in as an altar server when you can. This sign up is located under: Parish Life — Opportunities to Serve — Liturgical Ministries.

We are currently in need of servers for our **11am Mass on Sundays**. Contact the parish office if interested, or if you have any questions.

Thank you to all of our altar servers who assist in the Mass to make our worship experience reverent and beautiful for our Lord.

PARISH LIFE

Spiritual Growth: Advent Opportunities

Advent is a joyous season of preparation for Jesus' arrival. As Catholics we strive to spend these days together in prayer, penance and hope. Multiple resources are available for both adults & children at the north entrance of church to assist you in your journey through Advent.

Adults:

- * Bishop Robert Barron's *Advent Gospel Reflections* is a small book with each day's gospel, a short reflection by Bishop Barron and a journaling space for personal reflections.
- * Fr. Mark Toups' *Rejoice* includes daily liturgical readings that help us prepare for each Sunday Gospel reading during Advent. This study is also supported by weekly videos available on YouTube. You can utilize it individually or join one of two small groups (Mondays at 7:00 pm or Fridays at 9:00 am).

Please stop by the north entrance of church to get questions answered, to pick up one of the books and to sign up for a *Rejoice* small group if you would like to participate. We will have a basket available for a free will offering to go toward the cost of the books.

Children:

- * Advent Video on Formed | Brother Francis: The Days of Advent. There is also a companion guide on Formed as well!
- * *Jotham's Journey: A Storybook for Advent* (available to check out at the library during Advent).

Social Justice

October saw a huge outpouring of generosity by the parish for the River Falls Food Pantry. 378 items were donated. The shopping carts were overflowing when volunteers picked them up. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and welcomed by residents dealing with food insecurity. This month the Food Pantry would especially appreciate donations of salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, crackers of all kinds, salad dressing, and cereals. Thank you!

UW-Extension has published a list of food resources available in St. Croix County. It includes the commodity program; free meals; and a list of food shelves.



RECLAIMING SUNDAYS



December: Music & Prayer

"He who sings, prays twice."
-St. Augustine.



The *Reclaiming Sundays* December edition is about music & prayer. Below are tips that the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis have given us to appreciate better music in this special season of Advent.

"Music and song lifts the spirit to God. Engaging in vocal or instrumental music can be a way for our whole self to share in the glory of the Father."

Sample Activities for December:

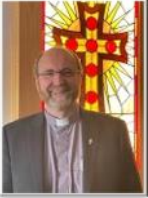
- "Share the gift of music together. If you can play instruments, great!"
- "Make a playlist of favorite hymns."
- "Find a playlist of Advent music."
- "Does your parish, school, or neighborhood have some sort of musical program this month? Attend as a family."
- "Pray with an Advent Wreath."
- "Recommended resource to assist in building habits of prayer is the *Hallow App*."



St. Bridget Catholic Church Contact Information



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Barrett Grove, Parish Administrator
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Susan Landry, Accountant (part-time)
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Lindsey Andrea, Administrative Assistant (part-time)
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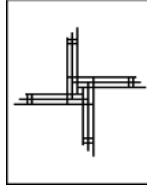


Sophie Kolars, Communications Coordinator
715-425-1879 ext. 111
communications@stbparish.com

Parish Council Chair & Finance Council Chair Contacts

Frank Ginther: Parish Council Chair
fgginther@yahoo.com

Craig Gasior: Finance Council Chair
cjgasior@gmail.com



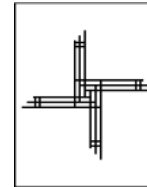
Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries



Randy Koller, Maintenance (part-time)
715-425-1879 ext. 112
facilities@stbparish.com



Adrian Amundsen, Housekeeping (part-time)



Head of Maintenance



Tessa Schuermann, Prek-8th grade Faith Formation (part-time)
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childrensFF@stbparish.com



Jessie O'Malley, 9-12th grade Faith Formation (part-time)
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Dannell Nordstrom, Interim Principal
715-425-1872
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St. Thomas More Newman Center



Mallory Schneider, Campus Minister
St. Thomas More-Newman Chapel, UWRF
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campusminister@uwrffnewman.org