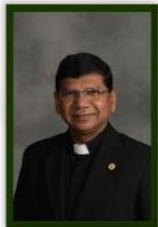


# St. Bridget Catholic Community

December 28th & January 4th

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and the Epiphany of the Lord

## God will Provide



As we step into this New Year, we are gently reminded of a timeless truth: **God will provide.**

In 1962, Mother Teresa set out in search of a place to begin *Nirmala Shishu Bhavan*, a home for abandoned infants. On her journey to Andheri, her vehicle unexpectedly broke down outside St. Francis Xavier's Church in Vile Parle. What seemed like an interruption became an invitation of grace. There she met the parish priest, Fr. Paul Cordeiro, who, inspired by faith, offered her the rectory extension for this new mission. When Mother Teresa asked him, "Father, how will you manage?" his simple and profound reply was, "God will provide."

With that faith, Mother Teresa and her sisters began their ministry on September 15, 1964. She started with almost nothing—only three saris and a five-rupee note—but she possessed what mattered most: complete trust in God, a generous heart, and an unwavering belief that the work was God's work and the poor were the Lord's poor.

Providence is God's loving care that invites us to trust Him fully. As we begin this New Year, may we place our lives, plans, and uncertainties into God's hands. When we give ourselves totally to Him, He works through us in ways we could never imagine.

In the words of Mother Teresa: *"Put yourself completely under the influence of Jesus, so that He may think His thoughts with your mind and do His work through your hands."*

*May this New Year be one of deep faith, generous love, and confident trust that, whatever lies ahead, God will provide. Wishing you a grace-filled and blessed New Year 2026.*

*-Fr. Balaraju Policetty*

## Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God: January 1st

The Solemnity of Holy Mary, Mother of God is a **Holy Day of Obligation**.

The Mass times at St. Bridget for this Holy Day are as follows:

Wednesday, December 31st (Vigil Mass): 5:00pm.

Thursday, January 1st: 9:00am.

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

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

## St. Bridget Weekly Masses & Events...

DECEMBER 28TH — JANUARY 4TH	
<b>Sunday, December 28th: Feast of the Holy Family</b>	
8:15 a.m.	Rosary
9:00 a.m.	<b>Mass - David Trebus+</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- St. Bridget, &amp; St. Thomas More Newman Center</b>
<b>Monday, December 29th</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
<b>Tuesday, December 30th</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer
9 a.m. - 7p.m.	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
4:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
5:00 p.m.	<b>Mass- Vernon &amp; Betty Johnson+</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 31st</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- Intention Open</b>
5:00 p.m.	<b>Vigil Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God- Intention Open</b>
<b>Thursday, January 1st: Solemnity of Holy Mary Mother of God</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Holy Mary, Mother of God Mass- Mary &amp; Eugene O'Keefe+</b>
<b>Friday, January 2nd</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	<b>Healing Mass- Sue Steckbauer+</b>
6:00 p.m.	<i>Baptism Prep (2nd child)</i>
6:30 p.m.	<i>Baptism Prep (1st child)</i>
<b>Saturday, January 3rd</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Group
8:00 a.m.	Women's Prayer Group
3:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
4:00 p.m.	<b>Mass- Deceased Members of the Bruggeman Families+</b>
<b>Sunday, January 4th: The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	
8:15 a.m.	Rosary
9:00 a.m.	<b>Mass - Jo-Ann Woeste+</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- Jim Yanish+</b>

JANUARY 5TH — JANUARY 11TH	
<b>Monday, January 5th</b>	
8:00 a.m.	Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion
7:00 p.m.	Community Prayer Group
<b>Tuesday, January 6th</b>	
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
9:30 a.m.	Martha's Quilt Group
5:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 7th</b>	
9:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- Intention Open</b>
1:30 p.m.	<i>Mass @ Comforts of Home Falls</i>
6:00 p.m.	Family Movie Night
<b>Thursday, January 8th</b>	
8:00 a.m.	<b>Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion</b>
1:00 p.m.	Euchre
<b>Friday, January 9th</b>	
7:30 a.m.	Rosary
7:30 a.m.	Individual Reconciliation
8:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- Emerence &amp; Walter Rezutek+</b>
<b>Saturday, January 10th</b>	
3:30 p.m.	Individual Reconciliation
4:00 p.m.	<b>Mass- John Meyer+</b>
<b>Sunday, January 11th: The Baptism of the Lord</b>	
8:15 a.m.	<i>Rosary</i>
9:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- St. Bridget, &amp; St. Thomas More Newman Center</b>
11:00 a.m.	<b>Mass- Olive &amp; Eugene Mulhollam+</b>

**In Remembrance**  
Wayne Morrisette



## DAILY WORD

### DAILY WORD: DECEMBER 28TH—JANUARY 4TH

<b>Sunday, December 28th</b>	Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 /Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
<b>Monday, December 29th</b>	1 John 2:3-11 /Luke 2:22-35
<b>Tuesday, December 30th</b>	1 John 2:12-17 /Luke 2:36-40
<b>Wednesday, December 31st</b>	1 John 2:18-21 /John 1:1-18
<b>Thursday, January 1st</b>	Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7 /Luke 2:16-21
<b>Friday, January 2nd</b>	1 John 2:22-28 /John 1:19-28
<b>Saturday, January 3rd</b>	1 John 2:29-3:6 /John 1:29-34
<b>Sunday, January 4th</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 /Matthew 2:1-12

### DAILY WORD: JANUARY 5TH—JANUARY 11TH

<b>Monday, January 5th</b>	1 John 3:22-4:6/Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25
<b>Tuesday, January 6th</b>	1 John 4:7-10 /Mark 6:34-44
<b>Wednesday, January 7th</b>	1 John 4:11-18 /Mark 6:45-52
<b>Thursday, January 8th</b>	1 John 4:19-5:4 / Luke 4:14-22
<b>Friday, January 9th</b>	1 John 5:5-13 / Luke 5:12-16
<b>Saturday, January 10th</b>	1 John 5:14-21 /John 3:22-30
<b>Sunday, January 11th</b>	Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38 /Matthew 3:13-17

## 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](mailto: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	Susan Murray

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### December 14th, 2025

<b>Adult Contributions</b>	<b>\$8,463</b>
<b>Loose Collection</b>	<b>\$661</b>
<b>Scrip Rebates</b>	<b>\$830</b>
<b>Adult Contributions (ACH)</b>	<b>\$21,671</b>

### December 21st, 2025

<b>Adult Contributions</b>	<b>\$15,609</b>
<b>Loose Collection</b>	<b>\$1420</b>
<b>Scrip Rebates</b>	<b>\$550</b>



## PARISH LIFE

### Happy New Year!

The parish office will be closed **all day** on December 31st and Thursday, January 1st.



*We wish you a  
blessed & fruitful  
year in 2026!*

### Worship Schedule for January 5th-February 12th

Since Fr. Bala will be on his annual vacation to India from January 5th 2026 to February 11th 2026, we will have some changes in our worship schedule during this time.

Starting **January 5th 2026 and ending February 12th 2026**, we will continue to have Wednesday and Friday Masses but will have a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion service on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Please note that we will have confessions only on Friday mornings before the 8am Mass and Saturday afternoons before the 4pm Mass during Fr. Bala's absence.

Contact the office with any questions.

### Email Scams

Email scams are once again circulating around our parish. It is important to report any suspicious emails to the parish office. If you are unsure if a scam email from St. Bridget staff is valid or not, check the email that it is coming from. All staff emails will end in the domain: **stbparish.com**. Please note that some hackers use our domain, but the name attached to it doesn't exist within our Parish staff network.

For example, the email: hr@stbparish.com *is a scam* email because we don't have an HR email address. Always check the back of the bulletin or the website when searching or verifying staff emails.

*Please contact the office  
with any questions or  
concerns.*

**SCAM**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Social Justice

The parish donated 284 food and nonfood items to the River Falls Food Pantry in November. This is in addition to the contributions made to the Knights of Columbus food drive.



### Resources

For most people this time of year is a time of celebration and joy. If, however, you or someone you know are having difficulties with the stresses that arise at this time of the year, there are places to turn to for support and help:

- ✦ 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. If you are in immediate crisis, please call, text, or talk to someone at 9-8-8.
- ✦ NAMI-St. Croix Valley. 608-301-5440. Leave a message and someone will get back to you.
- ✦ St. Croix Valley United Way 2-1-1. Call 211 or 877-947-2211.
- ✦ Center for Suicide Awareness. Text Hopeline to 741741.
- ✦ St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team. River Falls: 715-425-6443 or 877-572-6313.
- ✦ Turning Point Domestic Violence. 24 hour hotline text 715-821-8626 or call 800-345-5104.

## PARISH LIFE

### Job Openings at St. Bridget

St. Bridget has a few job openings that we are looking to fill.

- ✦ Liturgical Ministry Coordinator, full-time 40 hours/wk.
- ✦ Head of Maintenance, full-time 40 hours/wk.
- ✦ Church Custodian, part-time 20 hours/wk.

*Visit our website for details or contact Barrett in the office.*

### Men's Rally for Christ 2026

The Call to Masculine Sainthood A Major League Mission of Faith, Courage, and Holiness, featuring Mike Sweeney, Luke Spehar, and testimonials by Dominic Hietala and others. **Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.** Scan the QR code for more info!



## FAITH FORMATION

### Faith Formation Service Night

The Christmas Spirit is alive and well in faith formation classes!

Last Wednesday, the teen faith formation classes made cards for the nursing homes in River Falls, went caroling and rang bells for the Salvation Army.



## PARISH LIFE

### End-of-Year Contributions

As we near the end of 2025, this is a great time to remind all parishioners of ways they can save on taxes and help St. Bridget Church. If you have stocks or bonds that have appreciated, consider donating them to St. Bridget. You get to deduct the value at the time of donation even though you paid less (far less in some cases) for the investment in the past. Also, the IRS requires individuals who have reached the age of 72 or, in some cases, 73 to take a minimum distribution from their IRA or 401K. If you do not need these funds, consider donating them to St. Bridget because you can deduct the donation, which doesn't count as income. Before making any transfers, it's always a good idea to consult your financial advisor.

They can provide personalized advice and ensure your donation benefits you and the church.

### Thank You Adrian!

Adrian Amundsen's last day working as our custodian is December 31st, 2025. Adrian has been with St. Bridget for **7 years** serving our parish. We are so grateful to him for his dedication and service to the St. Bridget community.



*Thank you Adrian!*

## PARISH SCHOOL



*The beauty and joy of Christmas can be felt all around St. Bridget Parish School.*

Each Tuesday during Advent, our mornings began in a truly special way—with prayer and song led by our wonderful 8th grade students. Watching our oldest students step into leadership while our younger students look on in wonder is a beautiful reminder of the faith and community we are building together.

Last week was filled with Christmas joy and celebration. Our Christmas program was a heartfelt success, and the students did an incredible job. It is always awe-inspiring to see the joy, wonder, and spirit of the season shine so brightly through our children during the Christmas concert.

We were also delighted to welcome the River Falls High School costume carolers, who brought festive music and big smiles to both students and staff. Their visit added even more cheer to an already joyful week!



The students enjoyed one of their many **earned pajama days**, a well-deserved reward for collecting over **1,425 pairs of shoes** for the Step Up Shoe

Drive. What an amazing accomplishment and a powerful lesson in service and generosity!

Now, Christmas break is here, and our students have earned a well-deserved time to rest and celebrate with their loved ones—while remembering the true reason for the season.





When we return, be sure to join us on **January 6** for the basketball team's first (rescheduled) home game! The cheer team will be there to support them, and all we need is **YOU** to come cheer, celebrate, and try out our new bleachers!



*Christmas blessings to you and your families from all of us at St. Bridget Parish School.*



## *2025 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: IN LOVING MEMORY*

- 
- 
- † Deceased members of the Ricci-Raiter-Haydon families, by Ron and Kathy Ricci.
  - † Elizabeth (Plana) Smith, Richard and Emerenciana Plana and Clifford Holl by the Roy and Chris (Holl) Plana family.
  - † Jerry Jensen, Marvin and Delores Dopkins, and Roy, Charlie, Jerry, Ken and Betty Dopkins by Ann Jensen.
  - † Jim Murphy.
  - † John Matzek and Eugene Andrle by Mark and Laure Andrle.
  - † Lew David Niccum and Michael Stanley Garitty, by the Niccum family.
  - † Melita Graf by the family.
- 
- 



## PARISH LIFE

### Martha's Quilt Group

Below are some photos from the Martha's Quilt Group who made and donated 75 Christmas throws to the Sharing Families program this year, and also the throws given to the St. Bridget Parish School staff.

Thank you Martha's Quilt Group for your generosity in this season of Christmas!



### Sharing Families

The Christmas spirit is alive and well at St. Bridget! THANK YOU to our parishioners for your generous donations to this year's Sharing Families Program! A special thank you to Martha's Quilters who provided each family with a beautiful Christmas quilt, Gary Senn and Maple Leaf Orchard that had apples for the families and to Buffalo Hill Meats, owned by Mark and Kathy Gehl, for their donation of bison burger, turkeys and hams.

A big thank you to the Scrip coordinators and workers who helped facilitate gift cards for the families.

Our families were very grateful and overwhelmed with all of the gifts. May you all have a blessed Christmas season and a happy and healthy New Year!



## RECLAIMING SUNDAYS

The theme for January for Reclaiming Sundays is: **Invitation & Prayer.**

"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus." -*Pope Francis.*

*The Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis has put together some sample activities we can implement within our families for the month of January.*

### **Sample Activities for January:**

- **"Invite someone outside of your family** to share an aspect of your "reclaimed Sunday" (e.g., invite a neighbor for dinner, ask family friends to go on a walk with you)."

- **"Liturgical Living:** Intentionally celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. (E.g., light candles and have a little procession to place the Magi in your Nativity scene, use blessed chalk to bless your doorways, eat a meal of middle Eastern food, sing "We Three Kings," etc.) Invite someone to share your celebration."

- **"Liturgical Living:** Celebrate the Baptism of the Lord by remembering your own family baptisms. Light your candles, look at photos and videos from the sacramental celebration, invite godparents to share your celebration, bless each other with holy water, pray for your godparents, pray for priests who baptized you all, etc. While you have all these mementos out, document your family's baptism dates and mark them on your calendar to celebrate in years to come."

- **"Recommended resource** to assist in building habits of prayer is the Hallow App."

# St. Bridget Catholic Church Contact Information



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



**Deacon John Woehrle**  
715-425-1870  
[deaconjohn@stbparish.com](mailto:deaconjohn@stbparish.com)



**Barrett Grove, Parish Administrator**  
715-425-1879 ext. 102  
[parishadmin@stbparish.com](mailto:parishadmin@stbparish.com)



**Susan Landry, Accountant (part-time)**  
715-425-1879 ext. 104  
[accountant@stbparish.com](mailto:accountant@stbparish.com)



**Lindsey Andrea, Administrative Assistant (part-time)**  
715-425-1870 ext. 101  
[recept@stbparish.com](mailto:recept@stbparish.com)



**Sophie Kolars, Communications Coordinator**  
715-425-1879 ext. 111  
[communications@stbparish.com](mailto:communications@stbparish.com)

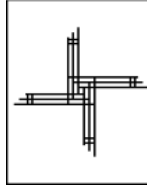
## Parish Council Chair & Finance Council Chair Contacts



**Frank Ginther: Parish Council Chair**  
[fgginther@yahoo.com](mailto:fgginther@yahoo.com)



**Craig Gasior: Finance Council Chair**  
[cjgasior@gmail.com](mailto:cjgasior@gmail.com)



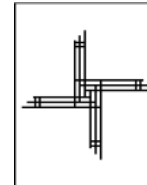
**Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries**



**Randy Koller, Maintenance (part-time)**  
715-425-1879 ext. 112  
[facilities@stbparish.com](mailto:facilities@stbparish.com)



**Adrian Amundsen, Custodian (part-time)**



**Head of Maintenance**



**Tessa Schuermann, Prek-8th grade Faith Formation (part-time)**  
715-425-1879 ext. 106  
[childrensFF@stbparish.com](mailto:childrensFF@stbparish.com)



**Jessie O'Malley, 9-12th grade Faith Formation (part-time)**  
715-425-1879 ext. 105  
[teenFF@stbparish.com](mailto:teenFF@stbparish.com)



**Dannell Nordstrom, Interim Principal**  
715-425-1872  
[principal@stbparish.com](mailto:principal@stbparish.com)

## **St. Thomas More Newman Center**



**Mallory Schneider, Campus Minister**  
St. Thomas More-Newman Chapel, UWRF  
715-425-7234  
[campusminister@uwrffnewman.org](mailto:campusminister@uwrffnewman.org)