



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God." - Lk 12:20-21

From the Pastor's Desk



**The Reverend
Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS**
Pastor
St. Bridget of Sweden Parish

Dear Friends in Christ:

This weekend's Gospel offers a sobering and timely reminder from Jesus about where we place our security. A man interrupts Jesus, asking Him to settle a family dispute over inheritance. Jesus doesn't take the bait—instead, He tells a parable about a wealthy man who fills his barns to the brim, makes grand plans to enjoy his comfort, and then suddenly dies that night. God's words to him are chilling: *"You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you..."*

This is not a condemnation of wealth or hard work. Jesus is not saying it's wrong to build up a retirement plan or to prepare for the future. The issue is that this man never thought beyond himself. His entire focus was *my crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, my comfort, my soul*. He didn't think of anyone else—not family, not neighbor, not God. His wealth was full, but his heart was empty.

The Psalm response this weekend reminds us: *"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."* The rich man in the parable failed to hear God's voice—not because God wasn't speaking, but because his heart was closed. Hardened by self-centeredness and self-sufficiency, he could no longer hear the call to generosity, compassion, and trust. And when the voice of God finally broke through, it was too late.

This parable challenges us to look at the priorities that shape our daily living. Are we rich in what matters to God? Are we storing up treasure in heaven

by the way we live on earth? Are we using what we have to bless others, or just to build bigger barns?

The truth is, none of us knows the day or hour. What we do know is this: if we live each day with generosity, humility, and gratitude, we will be storing up the kind of treasure that can never be lost.

This week, I invite each of us to ask:

- What am I storing up?
- What am I investing my energy in—just earthly comfort, or eternal value?
- Is there someone I can bless this week by sharing my time, my treasure, or my presence?

Let's not just live full lives—let's live *rich* lives: rich in faith, love, compassion, and trust in God. And may we never harden our hearts to the voice of the Lord calling us to what matters most.

Speaking of blessing someone...a HUGE thank you for your amazing support of our Youth Ministry's STUFF THE VAN. Over the past couple of weeks, I asked us to respond with hearts wide open—to show our youth that when we serve others in Christ's name, we are doing something sacred. Well, you did exactly that.



I want to offer a **heartfelt thank you** for the tremendous support of our **STUFF THE VAN** campaign. What an amazing sight it was to see the parish van **overflowing with donations after just two Masses**—literally *stuffed* to the roof with kindness, generosity, and care for our neighbors—it was so full I went to the Food Pantry and got

their cargo van and our youth moved the donations into that van and then that was stuffed by the end of our morning Masses. What tremendous concern you have for our neighbors in need; it is truly heart-warming.

You heard the need: families right here in our area—many with school-aged children—facing empty shelves and hungry bellies during the summer months. And you responded as the Body of Christ: with compassion, with generosity, and with action. From cereal and snack packs to jars of peanut butter and canned goods, every item you brought helped to fill more than just shelves; it lifted hearts and nourished dignity.

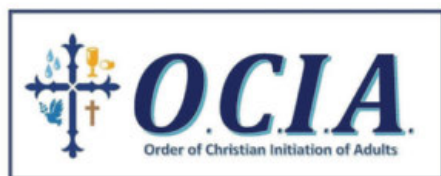


Our youth ministry group, who led the effort with such heart and enthusiasm, were overwhelmed—in the best way—by your response. Not only did you help restock the pantry during a critical season, but you also gave our young people a powerful witness of what it means to live the Gospel.

Jesus said, *"I was hungry, and you gave me food"* (Matthew 25:35). Last weekend, we saw those words come to life in our parish. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your witness. And thank you for helping us not just **STUFF THE VAN**—but fill it with love.



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults...We call it O.C.I.A., or what used to be known as R.C.I.A., and it stands for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.



It's more than a program. It's more than a class. It's a journey of faith that helps people—who may have been away from the Church, or never been a part of it—come to know Jesus Christ and to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

At its heart, O.C.I.A. is a **process of conversion and formation**. It's for those who are seeking God, longing for truth, or simply feeling something stir in their hearts. It's not about having all the answers—it's about being open to the questions that really matter: *Who am I? What is my purpose? Is God real? Can I come to know Him?*

What makes O.C.I.A. so beautiful is that it isn't just about learning doctrine (though that's important!). It's about **immersion into a Christ-centered way of living**. Through Scripture, prayer, sharing life experiences, the sacraments, and the companionship of fellow seekers and sponsors, those in O.C.I.A. begin to see that the Catholic faith is not just a set of teachings—it's a way of life. A life rooted in the love of Jesus, in service to others, and in the deep, abiding joy of being part of the Church He founded.

Who Can Join the O.C.I.A.?

- **Any unbaptized adult** who desires to learn more about the Catholic faith with the possibility of being baptized and received into the Church.
- **Baptized Christians from other denominations** who wish to explore what it means to be in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- **Catholics who were baptized,**

but have not received their First Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Maybe that's you. Maybe that's someone you know. A friend, a neighbor, a spouse, a coworker. So often people are quietly searching, just waiting for an invitation. **One of the most powerful tools of evangelization is simply the words, "Would you like to come with me?"** Your invitation might be the very thing God uses to lead someone home.

Last year, we were blessed with several individuals who responded to that call. They came with curiosity, with questions, with hope. And by Easter, they came with faith, joy, and a new sense of belonging. Their journey was deeply moving—not only for them, but for our entire parish family.

It's important to say: entering the O.C.I.A. does not mean you're making a commitment on day one. It's a process of discernment. It's a time of honest seeking. There is no pressure, no obligation—just a warm, open space to explore what the Catholic Church teaches, believes, and lives.

If you or someone you know has felt that gentle nudge—perhaps a stirring in your heart to go deeper in faith—we **encourage you to take the next step**. You don't have to do it alone. We want to walk this journey with you.

If you're interested in learning more or would like to join this year's O.C.I.A. process, please reach out to Joseph Gagliardi, our Director of Faith Formation, at (203) 272-6504 or jgagliardi@cheshirecatholic.org.

God is always calling. Maybe He's calling you. Come and see.

Happiest Congratulations...go to Max DellaVecchia, age 7, from our parish family and in third grade in our



school, whose artwork has been chosen as this year's parish Christmas card. It is very well done! I can't wait for you to see it.

The Pastoral Team always enjoys seeing the artwork of our young people and it really is so difficult to choose which image to use because we tend to love so many. I just love that our young people come up with amazing scenes for us to consider. I am lucky if I can draw a stick figure so to see these creations is so impressive.

A special word of gratitude to you, Max, and the many others from our school and parish families who contributed artwork for consideration. We are blessed with so many young artists!

THE PARISH PICNIC WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!! SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PARISH PICNIC! Our Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, September 14th, beginning with the 10:30AM Mass that morning being celebrated outside on the field behind St. Bridget School!

OUR PARISH PICNIC IS FREE TO ALL PARISHIONERS and will include games on the field, bounce houses, musical entertainment, tasty food, one or two surprises, as well as the opportunity to meet new friends and build up our parish family!!!



WE NEED YOUR HELP! Many hands make light work! We need help with the welcoming booth, set-up, kitchen, grilling, desserts, youth volunteers, kid's games volunteers, and clean-up. Any questions just email info@cheshirekofc.org and, if you are willing to assist in any way, visit the SignUpGenius at <https://bit.ly/SBoS2025PicnicVolunteers>.

Ready for Something More This School Year? Come See What Sets St. Bridget School Apart! Summer may be in full swing, but for parents, there's always that question simmering beneath the sunshine: **Where will my child thrive this coming school year?** If you've been wondering the same, we invite you to take a closer look at the difference a St. Bridget School education can make.

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

At St. Bridget School, we're more than just a school—we're a community rooted in faith, love, and learning. For over 30 years, our parish school has helped shape children not only into successful students, but into kind-hearted leaders, compassionate neighbors, and faith-filled disciples.

We serve children from Pre-K3 through Grade 8, and every day is an opportunity to grow—in knowledge, in faith, and in character. Our mission is simple but powerful: to form young people who are bright in mind, strong in spirit, and ready to make a difference.



So, what makes St. Bridget School so special?

- A Christ-centered education where faith isn't just taught—it's lived.
- A welcoming and safe environment where your family's values are honored and strengthened.
- Academic excellence fueled by creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity.
- A community of teachers and staff who see—and support—the whole child: mind, body, and soul.

Whether you're new to our community or have been thinking about a Catholic education for some time, now is the perfect moment to explore all that we have to offer. Enrollment is strong this year, and several grades are nearing capacity, in fact our Pre-K and Kindergarten programs have a waiting list—so don't wait!

Let us show you around, answer your questions, and help you envision your child's future here. **Contact Gina Alden, our Director of Admissions, at 203-272-5860 to schedule a personal tour.** She would love to welcome you and your family for a tour

and help you discover the St. Bridget School difference for yourself. ***Come find more than just a school. Come find a place where your child can shine.***



CALLING ALL GOLFERS! CALLING ALL SUPPORTERS OF ST. BRIDGET SCHOOL! WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are gearing up for the 12th Annual St. Bridget School Golf Tournament...which this year WILL BE HELD AT ***The Farms Country Club in Wallingford on Monday, September 15th!!!*** This is one of the two major fundraisers for our parish school. *Please consider assisting us in any way you can.* **Here are a number of ways you can assist us:**

1. **YOU can consider sponsoring our event.** If you own a business, or work for one who supports local charities, consider asking them to be a sponsor or put an ad in our ad book for the tournament (we expect a pretty full field and additional people to attend the dinner following the tournament which means these booklets will be dispersed to a good number of friends from the greater Cheshire area). **We really could use as many sponsors as possible... sponsorships make the tournament a success—so please help us if you can!**
2. **YOU can join us! If you golf, join us for a day of fun** on the course (\$225 per golfer/\$900 per foursome), and **if you don't golf, you can still get in on the fun** by getting some friends together to come for a nice dinner that evening and support our parish school by your participation at this event and your opportunity to win a raffle prize. Cost for dinner only option is \$65.
3. **YOU can donate an item for our raffle.** We are in need of a variety

of items for the raffle, which is held during the dinner at the tournament. Items such as: a grill, a big screen television, foursomes to local golf courses, any electronic equipment from entertainment to home improvement, gift cards to local restaurants, bottles of wine or spirits, or anything your creative minds can come up with. Items can be dropped off to the school office or parish office any day during the week, or in the sacristy at Mass on the weekend. *Please be sure your name is on it so we may properly thank you!*

ANY AND ALL information including registration forms and sponsorship forms can be found online at <https://stbridgetschool.ejoinme.org/golf2025>. Thank you for whatever you can do to assist our parish school in this important fundraising effort.

As always, remember to pray for vocations, pray for our young people, pray for our parish families and ask God's blessings as we strive to build His kingdom here. Please know that I am praying for you, and I ask for your prayers for me, that together through the intercession of Saint Bridget of Sweden, our Patroness, and Blessed Michael McGivney, and united in the Eucharist, we will reflect the presence of Jesus to the world.

Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Where Christ is Our Light

The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans, KCHS, Pastor
The Reverend Sean P. Yates, Parochial Vicar

175 Main St, Cheshire, CT 06410

203-272-3531

www.cheshirecatholic.org



Mass Schedule St. Bridget Church

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 4pm (Sept-May)

Daily Masses; M-F 7am, M-W-F-Sat 9am



Confessions

Saturdays from 3:00pm until heard in
St. Bridget Church, or by appointment



Eucharistic Adoration St. Bridget Church

Mondays 7:30-8:45am

Fridays 1:00-3:00pm



Epiphany House Adoration Chapel

Adoration by sign-up on

Tuesdays 4:00pm-8:00pm

Wednesdays 8:00am-8:00pm

Sign up at bit.ly/SBoSAdoration



Rosary

Mondays 1:30pm in St. Bridget Church
Family Room



www.cheshirecatholic.org

Stay updated on all events happening in the
parish at www.cheshirecatholic.org/currentevents



Sunday 10:30am Mass Livestreaming

on YouTube at bit.ly/SBoSYTChannel and
on Facebook @stbridgetofswedenparish



myParish App

Download the myParish App to your
phone to receive direct messages from
the parish about events and happenings



FORMED "Catholic Netflix"

Get thousands of faith centered movies, programs,
audio, and books instantly to your phone, computer, or
TV. Many child-appropriate shows!

FREE to all parishioners.

Go to formed.org & search for St. Bridget of Sweden



Social Media

Follow us on Facebook (Saint Bridget of Sweden)
& Instagram (@sboscheshire)

Don't miss our regular postings: Fenway Friday, Myth or
Truth, & Getting to Know Our Heavenly Father

The Pastoral Team

Mr. Gerald Maust, Deacon

Dr. Richard Wilber, Deacon, Senior Status

Sister Fiat Marie Fusco, F.S.E., Pastoral Associate

Mr. Bryan Niedermayer, Music Director

Mr. Joseph Gagliardi, Faith Formation Director

Mr. Anthony Niglio, Youth Minister

Mrs. Angelita Kingston, Saint Bridget School Principal

Ms. Sarah Murray, Saint Bridget School Asst Principal

Mrs. Gina Alden, Coordinator of Social Media

Fax: 203-271-3356

Bulletin Submissions: office@cheshirecatholic.org

Parish Trustees

Mr. Karl Krieg • Mrs. Dee Ferry

Parish Staff

Mrs. Carrie Brabant, Office Assistant

Mrs. Mary Beth Chamberlain, Administrative Assistant

Mr. David DeLancy, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Ms. Leah Ventura, Office Assistant

Mrs. Pam Todman, Faith Formation Admin Assistant

Mr. Anthony Ginnetti, Sacristan

Email: rectory@cheshirecatholic.org

Social Media: communications@cheshirecatholic.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intention.....Requested by

Saturday, August 2nd

9:00 a.m. SBC Joe O'Reilly.....The Haensel Family
4:00 p.m. SBC Fred & Millie Adams.....John & Karen Adams
Marie "Dolores" Retelle.....The Riopelle Family

Sunday, August 3rd: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. SBC Ruth Blake.....Karen & Kevin Blake
9:00 a.m. SBC Charles Peter Borowicz—8th Anniversary.....His Wife
10:30 a.m. SBC Fred Caruso.....The Cherrone Family
Rodolfo Fraschilia—20th Anniversary and Filomena
Fraschilla—6th Anniversary.....Their Children

Monday, August 4th: Saint John Vianney, Priest

7:00 a.m. SBC Karl & Josie Banach.....Daughter, Karla
9:00 a.m. SBC Daniel & Nancy Ginnetti.....The Family

Tuesday, August 5th

7:00 a.m. SBC The People of Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Wednesday, August 6th: The Transfiguration of the Lord

7:00 a.m. SBC Robert Barron—1st Anniversary.....Family
9:00 a.m. SBC Donald Camerato.....Paul & Corinne Camerato

Thursday, August 7th

7:00 a.m. SBC Virginia Malchiodi.....Leah Ventura

Friday, August 8th: Saint Dominic, Priest

7:00 a.m. SBC Anthony Cherrone, Sr.The Cherrone Family
9:00 a.m. SBC Albert & Margaret Devine.....Charlotte & Jerry Devine

Saturday, August 9th

9:00 a.m. SBC Eileen O'Connell.....Ognen Petroff
4:00 p.m. SBC In Living Prayer for the 60th Wedding Anniversary of
John & Pat Perrotti.....John & Pat
Algis Brazdzionis.....Vicki Corti

Sunday, August 10th: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. SBC Eileen Rauccio.....Paul Fitzsimmons
9:00 a.m. SBC John Geary—5th Anniversary.....The Family
10:30 a.m. SBC Mr. Pat Sullivan.....The Nugent Family
Shirley Welch.....Moira Aitro

NO 4:00 p.m. Mass until September 21st



Please pray for this couple as they
prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:

I Matthew Day & Kelley Jefferis



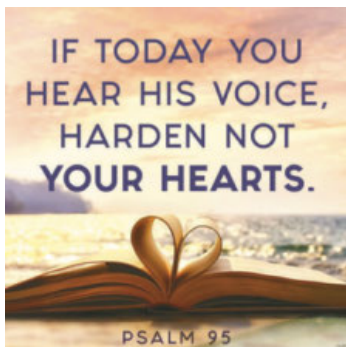
*The Tabernacle Candle in St. Bridget Church
shines this week for*

**Living & Deceased Members of
Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish**

*The Tabernacle Candle in Epiphany House Chapel
shines this week for*

**An Increase in Vocations to the
Priesthood & Religious Life**





Today is the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for today can be found at

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/080325.cfm>

Recent studies suggest that millennials will be the first generation in America to be worse off than their parents in terms of financial earnings and job status. Many lament this. I propose that this week's Gospel provides a hopeful way to see the trend as good news.

The Lord Jesus says, "Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist in possessions" (Luke 12:15). Greed damages us with the deception that we are what we possess. But to Jesus, this is simply not true. What makes us happy is who we are, who we become.

Does not the expectation that every generation should do better than their parents subtly mask the poison of greed? A similar attitude is mirrored in the man who demands that Jesus justly arrange his share of the family inheritance. Despite the injustice, Jesus will not play that game. In fact, he seems to prefer that the man have less than his parents. What good would having more be to this man if he becomes enslaved and miserable by greed? What good would it be for us to have more if it means we become much less?

In allowing the man to have less, Jesus opens a space for him to become more: a man free to love. In that much more meaningful sense, perhaps he was better off than his parents. Maybe the millennials will be, too.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



Sunday Connection — www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/



Our collection for
the week of July 27th

Collected

Offertory \$15,031.75

Online

Offertory \$6,413.86

Thank you for your kind generosity!

Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference 2025
New Location: Holy Cross High School, Waterbury, CT
Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 7:30 AM - Vigil Mass

Join us for a transformative day of faith with speakers Dr. Ray Guarendi, Father Anthony Federico, Michael O'Neill, and Father Jason Brooks. The day includes a **Eucharistic procession, Adoration, first-class relics, Confession, Exhibitors, Vendors**, and includes **lunch**. The day will culminate in **Vigil Mass with the Archbishop**.

For tickets, visit www.ctcatholicmen.org.



St. Bridget School

Fostering Academic Excellence, Community Awareness and Spiritual Growth

School News and Happenings

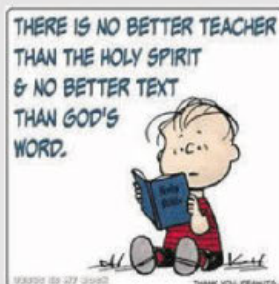
Creating the Future

Our **Robotics Summer Program** was an unforgettable experience, where students combined creativity, technology, and teamwork to bring their ideas to life! From building and programming robots to tackling real-world engineering challenges, students sharpened their problem-solving and coding skills in fun, hands-on ways.

One of the biggest highlights? Our epic **STEAM Slip 'n Slide Challenge**!

Students were tasked with designing and engineering a system to launch, measure, and record data from a slip 'n slide experiment—blending physics, math, and just the right amount of summer fun. It was wet, brilliant, and totally engaging!

We're so proud of our young innovators and can't wait to see where their imaginations take them next!



We're thrilled to announce the **12th Annual St. Bridget School Golf Tournament**—and you're invited to tee up for a great cause!

Join us for a day of fun, friends, and friendly competition—all while *playing "fore" our children's future!*

<https://stbridgetschool.ejoinme.org/golf2025>



Mrs. Angelita J. Kingston, Principal | Ms. Sarah Murray, Assistant Principal
Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

www.stbridgetschool.org | 203-272-5860



Office of Faith Formation
Monday – Friday
8:30 am to 1:30 pm
203.272.6504

Joseph Gagliardi, Dir. of Faith Formation
jgagliardi@cheshirecatholic.org
Pam Todman, Faith Formation Admin. Asst.
ptodman@cheshirecatholic.org

Are You or is Someone You Know an Adult Who Has Received First Holy Communion But Has Not Made Confirmation?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the perfection and strengthening of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit we all receive at Baptism. It emboldens us to live out our faith in the world as Christians and gives us an openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. **If this is something that you or an adult you know desires, we are offering a 6 week preparation course culminating in a Confirmation ceremony on November 18th. Classes meet on Sunday mornings starting in September.**

For more information or to register please email jgagliardi@cheshirecatholic.org

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-26 Faith Formation

Registration for 2025-26 Faith Formation is live on our website. Join us for a year of building faith in our kids!

Our sessions are as follows:

Kindergarten-8th Grade:

- ✚ Sunday 8:30am-9:45am (only session with Kindergarten)
- ✚ Monday 4:00pm-5:15pm
- ✚ Monday 5:30pm-6:45pm

Confirmation:

- ✚ Sunday 5:00pm-6:30pm

Go to
bit.ly/FaithFormationRegistration2025-26
or use this QR code to register



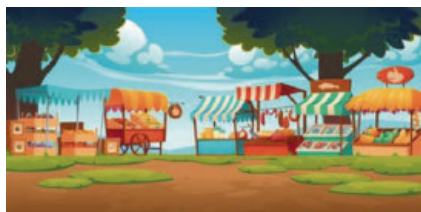
Our Parish Needs Your Help!

We are in need of teachers for Faith Formation of all ages next year, 1st through 10th grade. Classes meet approximately twice per month from September to April. **Catechists receive a discount on registration fees for their child/children. Only \$25 per child for catechists!**

We also need volunteers to lead small group discussions for adults in our Faith Formation program. The commitment involves a retreat in August and small group discussions once per month for 75 minutes starting in September and ending in April. Prayerfully consider if you can give of yourself to our parish in this way and contact Joe in the Faith Formation Office for details.



The St Bridget of Sweden Women's Society needs you!



Wherever you go this summer in Connecticut, you can find an Arts & Crafts Fair! We're looking to find new vendors for next year's Holiday "Shoppers' Delite". So, if you see an interesting artist or craft person, let us know!

You can find fairs all through the summer & fall at <https://www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/CT>

For more information, contact Cheryl Foti at pcfoti@cox.net.

Thanks for your help!!



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Wednesday, August 20th

@ 6:00 PM

Saint Bridget Church

Any boy or girl who has made their
First Communion is eligible

Serve God through serving the Altar at Mass

Contact the rectory at 203-272-3531 to register for training

"Being an Altar Server helps me be closer to God."



FREE Evening Talk and
Dinner with
Lorine Zdanowski
Saint Bridget Parishioner



"The Little Way" to Wellness

Nourish Your
Body & Soul

Inspired by St. Therese de Lisieux, who taught
us that small acts done with great love can lead
to transformation, this workshop explores how
small, consistent changes in how we eat, move,
and live can bring big blessings to our health,
body, mind, and spirit!

What You'll Learn:

- ✓ 3 KEY 'ON AND OFF THE PLATE' STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT GUT HEALTH
- ✓ HOW DIGESTION AFFECTS YOUR ENERGY, MOOD & IMMUNE SYSTEM
- ✓ THE POWER OF FAITH AND CONSISTENCY IN CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH
- ✓ HOW TO BEGIN GENTLY - ONE STEP AT A TIME

BRING A JOURNAL TO TAKE NOTES!

<https://bit.ly/LittleWayToWellness-8-19-25>

EVENT DETAILS:

📅 **August 19, 2025**

🕒 **6:00-7:30 PM**

📍 **St. Bridget Parish Center**

**Registration Required -
Reserve Your Spot Now!**

FREE Dinner Included - Donations Welcome

📞 **Contact Sister Fiat Marie:**
srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org
203-272-3531



SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

Join

SBS

JUNE 17,
JULY 1,
JULY 15,
JULY 29,
AUGUST 12

WHEN: 5:30PM-7:30PM

WHERE: SBS PARISH CENTER,
GYMNASIUM AND OUTDOORS

FOOD IS PROVIDED!

CONTACT SISTER FIAT MARIE FOR REGISTRATION
[SRFIATMARIE@CHESHIRECATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org)
203-272-3531

SOUL FOOD

Summer Series

FOOD
MUSIC
PRAYER
ACTIVITIES
AND MORE

+

ALL ARE
Welcome

NOURISH YOUR SOUL THIS SUMMER!

Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish
CHESHIRE, CT

EPIC: THE EARLY CHURCH NEW 2 PART SERIES

Part I Nighttime Course Available!
Monday Nights 6pm-8pm
Beginning September 8th

Bring Your Friends and
Neighbors as We
Honor the History of
Our Church

2 Part series

Part 1: 9/08-11/24

beginning

SEPTEMBER
| 8 |
DAYTIME
10 AM-12PM

Both Sessions in Epiphany House

Contact Sister Fiat Marie to register
srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org 203-272-3531



Hello and welcome back to Yakety Yak with Father Yates, this is the column where I attempt to answer your questions about our Catholic faith. I do really enjoy attempting to answer your questions, so please keep them coming in. This week I received the follow question, "Father, the bible says to call no man father, so why do we call you father?"

Yes it is true that Matthew 23:9 says, "And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in Heaven." Notice, however, that this makes no distinction between spiritual fathers, which is what our priests are to us, and biological fathers. In other words, if you interpret this passage to say, absolutely, that no man is to be called father, you cannot distinguish between calling a priest 'father' and calling the man who is married to your mother


'father'. But, is that actually what this passage is saying? Or is Jesus warning us against trying to usurp the fatherhood of God? The latter intention, in many ways, is what the Pharisees and Scribes were doing. They wanted all attention focused on them . . . they were leaving God, the Father, out of the equation, which is why Jesus goes on to call them hypocrites, liars, and whitewashed tombs.

If you interpret this passage from Matthew 23 as an absolute ban against calling anyone your spiritual father, then there are some problems for you in the rest of Scripture. For example, Jesus, in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16, has the rich man referring to Abraham as 'father' several times. Paul, in Romans chapter 4, refers to Abraham as the 'father' of the uncircumcised, the Gentiles. That's referring to spiritual fatherhood, not biological fatherhood.

In Acts 7:1-2, the first Christian martyr, Stephen, referred to the Jewish authorities and elders who were about to stone him as brothers and 'fathers', as does Paul in Acts, chapter 22. This is referring to spiritual fatherhood. So, if you interpret Matthew 23 as saying we cannot call anyone our spiritual father, then you would have to argue that Jesus, Paul, Stephen, and the Holy Spirit must have all gotten it wrong.

It is okay to call priests 'father', just as it was okay for Jesus and Paul to call Abraham 'father' and for Stephen and Paul to call the Jewish elders 'father'. As long as we remember that our true Father is God the Father and that all aspects of fatherhood, biological and spiritual, are derived from Him, and as long as we do not allow anyone else to usurp that role in any way, shape, or form, as the Pharisees and Scribes were prone to do.

I pray that I have answered your question well and, as always, I love you, Father Yates



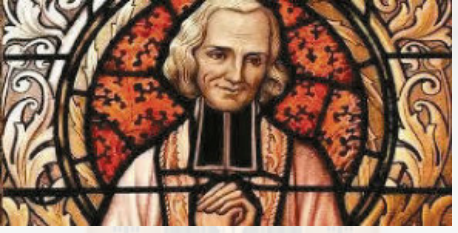
ROOTED

COMMUNITY MASS AND BREAKFAST

We attend the 9am Mass as a community, sitting together toward the front of the church on the right. After Mass, join us for breakfast treats and fellowship in the St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center. Our next get-together will be Sunday, August 3.

For more information, please email the Rooted Core Team at rootedsbc@gmail.com

VOCATIONS CORNER



Monday, August 4th is the feast day of St. John Marie Vianney, a pastor who overcame many obstacles to become a priest such as his poor education prior to entering the seminary, his failure to understand Latin, and his struggle with theology and with preparing homilies. However, with his deep love of God and his parishioners, his humility, and his spiritual gifts, God used him to touch the hearts of many. Today, the Church honors him as the patron saint of parish priests. Could God be calling you to be a parish priest? Talk to Father Romans or Father Yates and/or visit hartfordpriest.com, send an email to vocations@aohct.org, or call the Office of Vocations at 860.761.7456.



Cheshire K of C KNIGHTS KORNER

Grand Knight, John Minardi
Council Lecturer—Tim Orcutt

God and Country - Part V

“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” -Acts 5:29

As we conclude this series on God and Country, remember that we are first and foremost God’s servants. Pope Leo XIII instructed that the essential duty of Christians is “to love both countries, that of the earth below and that of heaven above, yet in such mode that the love of our heavenly surpass the love of our earthly home.” Pope St. John Paul II warned us to remember “the essential difference between an unhealthy form of nationalism, which teaches contempt for other nations and cultures, and patriotism, which is proper love of one’s country.” Our love of country must be grounded in the universal moral law and the common good.

Oppression by civil authorities can occur in the context of labor, economic, social and political circumstances. Note that it is not the role of the pastor to intervene in the political structure and the organization of social life; rather, it is inherent in the vocation of lay persons, acting on their own initiative with their fellow citizens, to further the common good through social action in conformity with the Gospel message. Citizens are not obliged to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are morally wrong, violate fundamental rights of persons or directly contradict the Gospel message. Citizens are called to action to change any form of oppression using means permissible under the civil law and, failing those, other forms of civil disobedience appropriate under the circumstances.

- **Labor:** When faced with oppressive working conditions, it is morally acceptable for workers to strike, provided it is necessary to obtain an appropriate wage or benefit and it is not used to pursue objectives that are not directly linked to working conditions and the common good. Violence is always morally unacceptable in this context.
- **Economic:** When a group is faced with dire economic circumstances resulting from famine, natural disasters, war or economic exploitation, the community should provide direct aid to those suffering to address their immediate basic human needs. Beyond that, the community, whether local, national or international, should also avidly pursue reforms, practices and institutional changes to address the causes that led to the dire economic circumstances or oppression.
- **Social:** Citizens must oppose and seek reforms to social policies that do not promote the common good, respect human dignity or undermine the fundamental freedom to practice one’s faith. Citizens may pursue these changes through the political process, judicial action, peaceful marches, media campaigns and other forms of appropriate nonviolent activities. Violence is always morally unacceptable in this context.
- **Political:** Political change is best handled through the political process. However, citizens are obliged in conscience not to follow directives of the political authorities that are contrary to the moral order, the fundamental rights of persons or the Gospel message. Citizens should do what is objectively demanded by the common good and legitimate to defend their rights and those of their fellow citizens, provided doing so is consistent with the Gospel and natural law. Armed resistance to political oppression is not legitimate unless the following conditions exist:
 1. There are certain, grave and prolonged violations of fundamental rights;
 2. All other means of redress have been exhausted;
 3. Such resistance will not provoke worse disorders;
 4. There is a well-founded hope of success; and
 5. It is reasonably impossible to foresee any better solution.

God intends us to live as an earthly community to prepare for the heavenly community. This requires that we love one another as Jesus loved us in accordance with the Ten Commandments. God’s desire for order requires community leaders who we obey and support. Our leaders should pursue the common good in accordance with the morals and beliefs of the community. As citizens, we must do our part to work peacefully within our community to ensure our labor, economic, social and political leaders adopt policies and practices that ensure this, thereby setting the example for others to follow.

Note: The information for this series on God and Country was derived from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 1878-1948, 2197-2257 and 2401-2463).



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Caring about our neighbors

Thank you for supporting the CCFP & for helping our fellow neighbors!



We gratefully accept any donations, but this week we have a particular need for:

- sugar & flour
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- canned fruit/cocktail
- bread crumbs
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- jelly
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- ground coffee (reg & de-caf)

Please note that the Food Pantry:

- Cannot accept expired or opened items
- Cannot use large industrial canned goods
- Can accept perishable goods anytime; the lobby has a freezer and refrigerator
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Pro-Life Rosary

To Uphold the Dignity of Every Human Person



Join us in Prayer on August 11th
at Saint Brigid Church
6:30pm

For more information Contact:
Alex & Lauren Wells
prolife@cheshirecatholic.org
or Sister Fiat Marie
srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org
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srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org 203-272-3531



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srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org



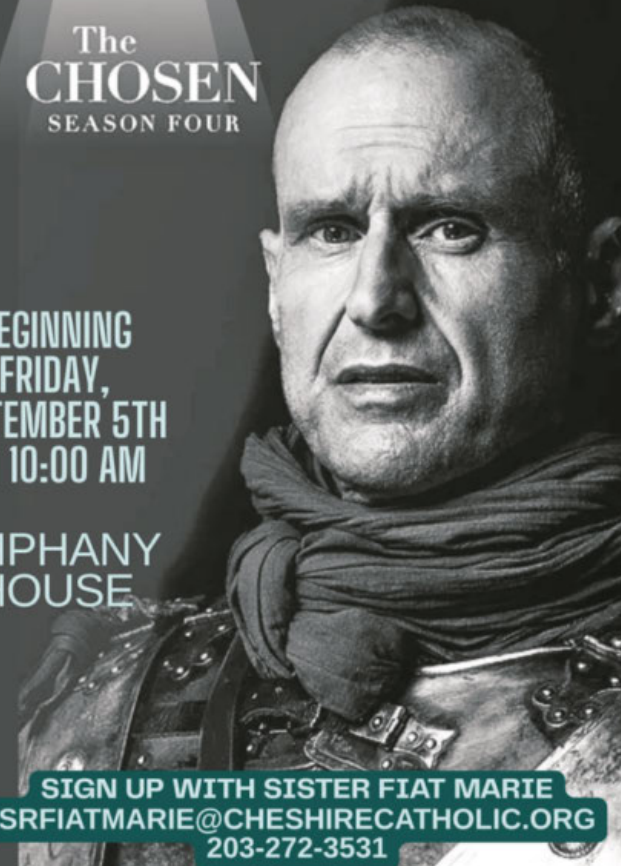
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BEGINNING
FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5TH
AT 10:00 AM

EPIPHANY HOUSE

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 Captain Cassandra Andrea USAF
 Lt. Colonel J. Michael Andrea USAF
 SRA Garrett Barboza, USAF
 Captain Darren Barile, US Army
 Lt. Colonel David B. Beale, US Army
 Specialist Alan Bell, US Army
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Betts, US Navy
 MMA1/SS Sunny Bray, US Navy
 Captain Kevin Briskin, US Army
 ENS Michelle Browning, US Navy
 2nd Lt. Tommy Bushway, US Army
 LT Steven C. Caldwell, US Navy
 Sergeant Brian Caouette
 Lieutenant Hollis Ann Capuano, US Navy
 Seaman Apprentice Robert Carrano, US Coast Guard
 Private Jack Cavanaugh, US Army
 Christopher Ciampi, USMC
 Tech Sergeant Edward J. Clark, Jr, USAF
 MMA1/SS Dan Combs, US Navy
 PFC Dominic DeSena US Army Natl. Guard
 Sergeant Aaron Desjardins, USAF
 Sergeant Peter D. Earley, USMC
 Colonel Jessica Farrell, Army JAG
 2nd Lt. Mihiri Fernando, USAF
 STS-1 Jake Ford, US Navy
 PFC Owen C. Fowler, USMC
 1st Lt. John Rodolfo Fronc, US Army
 Lt. Colonel Mark Christopher Glenn, US Army
 MMN2/SS Nate Gorr, US Navy
 Private Alyza Hernandez, USMC
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Martin Houston, US Navy
 Private Jacob Howson, US Army
 Cdr. Thomas A. Ianucci, USN, Chaplain
 Technical Sergeant Michael Irvine, USAF
 SRA Ryan Jones, USAF
 Lt. Colonel John Kanuch, USAF
 Major Leslie Ann Kanuch, USMC
 Ryan Kiernan, US Navy
 AWO2 Kyle (DeVylder) Kohl, US Navy
 Lt. Cdr. Jared Korn, US Coast Guard
 Sergeant Gregory J. Kowalski, USMC
 Airman First Class Benjamin M. LeClerc, USAF

MA2 Tiana Lefebre, US Navy
 Jeremy Ryan Lewis, US Navy
 Cdr. Josh Ludwig, US Navy
 Captain Michael Marotta, USMC
 Lieutenant Tyler McEvoy, US Army Natl. Guard
 Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian McGrath, US Navy
 LT Derek Molkenbuhr, US Navy
 LCDR Marisa Molkenbuhr Rose, US Navy
 LT Trevor Molkenbuhr, US Navy
 Specialist Carlos Morachis, US Army
 Senior Chief Petty Officer Pasquale Moreland, US Navy
 Airman First Class Anthony Nero, USAF
 Lt. Christopher Nguyen, US Army
 Major Susan Nolido, US Army
 Specialist Eric Normand, US Army
 Captain Dana O'Donnell, US Army
 Captain Philip O'Neill, USAF
 Captain Denis L. O'Reilly, USMC
 2nd Lt. Christopher Paier, US Army
 PVT John Pastore, USMC
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 Lt. Tom Peterson, US Navy
 Sergeant Alexander Poling, US Army Natl. Guard
 1st Lt. Molly Reagan, US Army
 LTJG Jake Patrick Reid, US Navy
 Private Quianna Rios, US Army
 Jack Roberge, US Navy
 Tatiana Robles, USAF
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 Nicholas Sciarretto
 Lt. Ellie Marie Senft, US Army
 Captain Jack David Senft, US Army
 SRA Myron Simpson, USAF
 Major Alexander James Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Matthew Neil Topitzer, US Army
 Captain Ryan Van Wie, US Army
 Private 1st Class Connor Valinsky, US Army
 Specialist Andrew Joseph Vernon US Army Natl. Guard
 Staff Sergeant Joseph Villano, USAF
 Corporal Bernard Vitti, Jr., USMC
 LCpl. Matthew Voelker, USMC
 Airman Mark Zajac, Jr., USAF

If you have a name to place on our U.S. Military prayer list, please contact Mary Beth in the Rectory at 203-272-3531 or office@cheshirecatholic.org with the names of family & friends who are on active duty. Please provide name and branch of service. In this way, our whole parish community can help bring them home safely by our prayers.

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The Archbishop's Annual Appeal, **Trust in the Lord**, helps provide the critical funding needed to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, counsel those in despair, offer much-needed assistance to the un- and under-employed, and make medical care available to those without health insurance. Your gift to the 2025 Appeal will help to continue these and other vital ministries, services, and programs that reach out to so many in need.

All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements.

Branches on the Vine

AUGUST 2 - 8, 2025



Members of the St. Trofimenia Society of St. Michael Church carry a statue of the saint through the Wooster Street neighborhood of New Haven during a procession on her feast day.
PHOTO BY JOE PISANI



The St. Catello Society participated in the first procession in 70 years, along with other Italian-American religious societies from St. Michael and St. Anthony.
PHOTO BY JOE PISANI

Several hundred Italian-Americans marched in a procession three blocks long in honor of St. Trofimenia, a fourth century virgin martyr, whose statue was held aloft on a platform and carried through New Haven's Wooster Street neighborhood of Little Italy.

The procession, held on the saint's feast day, July 13, was sponsored by the St. Trofimenia Society and was preceded by a Mass at St. Michael Church.

It included a marching band, a Knights of Columbus honor guard and representatives from the St. Catello Society and other Italian-American organizations from St. Michael and St. Anthony churches, which are part of the Blessed Michael McGivney Parish in the Elm City.

David Kelley, one of the organizers, said it was the first time in 40 years there has been a procession for the saint, who is patron of Minori, Italy, and the first time in 70 years for the St. Catello Society.

Kelley, who is co-president of the St. Trofimenia Society with his cousin, Richard Biondi, says, "This is beyond belief. This is more than we ever anticipated or dreamed of doing." Only two years ago, the co-presidents revived the society, which was founded in 1908. It now boasts some 120 members.

"The Mass and procession mean a great deal to me and the members of the societies," Biondi says.

PROCESSION IN NEW HAVEN CELEBRATES CATHOLIC FAITH, ITALIAN-AMERICAN CULTURES

"For the older members to celebrate a Mass in Italian brings back cherished memories of their youth and family members who are no longer alive."

Biondi adds that the procession was also an opportunity for unity among the Italian-American religious organizations in the New Haven area and "an occasion to celebrate our Catholic faith, as well as our Italian-American culture and traditions." The procession included delegations from societies that honor St. Trofimenia, St. Catello, St. Anthony, St. Andrew, St. Anne and St. Maria Maddalena.

Father Joseph MacNeill led the procession and celebrated Mass in Italian earlier that morning. The priest, who is chaplain of St. Thomas More Chapel & Center at Yale in New Haven, traces his ancestry on his mother's side to the Abruzzi region of Italy.

"I'm here to continue to give witness to our passion, faith, culture and saints for the next generation of Italian Americans," he says. Founded in 1901, members of the St. Catello Society carried a statue of the ninth century bishop of Castellamare di Stabia, a city southeast of Naples.

Gene Avino, whose grandfather began the society to help immigrants from his home, says the group will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year.

The president, Paul Criscuolo, says there has been a renewed interest in Italian heritage and that 14 new members have enrolled, some of them from Ireland, Italy, California and Florida. Around the turn of the century, immigrants established Italian societies at St. Michael's, the oldest Italian church in Connecticut, to offer assistance to one another, honor their traditions and share their devotion to the patron saints of their hometowns.

According to tradition, St. Trofimenia was a young woman who was killed by her father for refusing to marry a pagan because she was Christian.

Kelley said the day was a testament to the enduring presence of Italian-American culture and faith.

"I grew up at St. Michael's Church as a child and spent a lot of time with my grandparents," he recalled. "I love our Italian traditions, so we hope this is a kind of revival."

- Story by Joe Pisani



Upcoming Events



08/5 - 9/9 TUESDAYS 6PM
ROSARY WALK 2025 FOR WORLD PEACE
 All Saints Cemetery, Main office,
 700 Middletown Ave, North Haven

Join the Legion of Mary every Tuesday evening until Sept. 9th for a peaceful Rosary Walk for World Peace. This outdoor gathering offers prayerful reflection through the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. In the event of rain, the group will meet in front of the Mausoleum.

Please wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing. A limited supply of rosaries is available, but participants are encouraged to bring their own. Prayer programs will be provided. Free parking available.

Questions? Call Barbara at 203-605-9845.
 To receive updates, leave a message with your clearly stated and spelled email address.



10/13 MONDAY
2025 CONNECTICUT GOLF CLASSIC
 The Hartford Golf Club, 134 Norwood Rd,
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Join us for the 2025 Connecticut Golf Classic, co-presented by the Connecticut Catholic Foundation and Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Hartford. Individuals and foursomes are invited to enjoy a day on the course in support of a great cause.

Proceeds benefit the CCF grants program and Catholic Charities' Early Childhood Education program, addressing critical needs in Hartford, Litchfield, and New Haven counties.

Register at: www.ctcatholicfoundation.org/2025-ct-golf-classic

Contact:
 Randee Gileau, CCF, 860-242-5573 ext. 1054 or
Randee.Gileau@aohct.org
 David Sellery, Catholic Charities, 860-728-2564 or
dsellery@ccaoh.org

Bereavement Facilitators Enrichment Workshop

For those who provide pastoral care in parish setting.

Learn from Jennifer Siefert, author of *When Words Disappear*, how poetry can help the grieving process by tapping into a range of feelings – from sadness to despair to hope and healing.

When Jennifer's mother was diagnosed with corticobasal syndrome, a rare, progressive brain disease similar to early-onset Alzheimer's, she wrote poetry to help her cope.

When Words Disappear is Jennifer's vivid chronicle of caregiving and grieving for her mother. Told through poems and reflections, it takes the reader on an intimate journey and beyond bereavement.

Join us

When: Tuesday, August 5, 2025
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Location: Pastoral Center
 467 Bloomfield Avenue
 Bloomfield, CT

Register by scanning the QR Code:

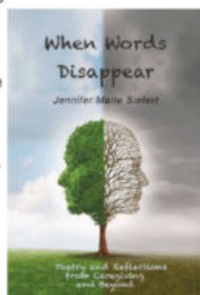
Schedule of the Morning

9:00 a.m. - Check in and Coffee
 9:15 a.m. - Author Presentation
 10:30 a.m. - Catholic Teachings on Death with Fr. Dolan
 11:15 a.m. - Bereavement Facilitator Discussion Panel

For more information, email Valerie St. Jean, Associate Director of Adult and Family Life Ministries: Valerie.StJean@aohct.org.



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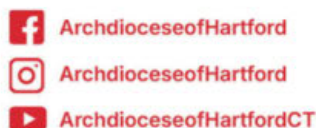


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