



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
THE PERSON TRUSTWORTHY
IN SMALL MATTERS IS
ALSO TRUSTWORTHY IN
GREAT ONES.

— LUKE 16:10 —

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN PARISH

WHERE CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

From the Pastor's Desk



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

Dear Friends in Christ:

This Sunday's readings speak to us about two pillars of Christian living: faithfulness in the ordinary and prayer for all people.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that "the person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones" (Luke 16:10). How true this is in daily life! Faith is not only proven in great sacrifices, but also in the small, hidden choices we make each day. Do we speak the truth when it would be easier to bend it? Do we treat others with respect, even when no one notices? Do we use money and possessions wisely—as tools for good—rather than letting them take hold of our hearts? Jesus is clear: we cannot serve both God and mammon. Eventually, one will claim our loyalty. Faithfulness begins with the little things, but over time, it shapes our entire life.

St. Paul, in his letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:1–8), emphasizes the other pillar: prayer. He urges us to pray "for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life." Paul widens our vision. Prayer is not just for ourselves and our families, but for all people, even those we might find difficult to pray for. Why? Because prayer aligns our hearts with God's desire—that "all may be saved and come to knowledge of the truth." When we pray in this way, we grow beyond self-interest and learn to see the world through Christ's heart of mercy.

Taken together, these readings remind us that discipleship is both practical and spiritual. It is practical, in that our loyalty to God is shown in the honesty, integrity, and compassion of daily life. It is spiritual, in that all we do is to be rooted in prayer—prayer that lifts up others, seeks peace, and keeps us centered on the Lord.

As we reflect this week, perhaps we can ask ourselves: *In what small, everyday way can I be more faithful to God? And how can I broaden my prayer to include someone or some group I rarely pray for?* If we live faithfully

in the little things and pray broadly for all, we will be serving the one Master who alone brings life and peace.

"Encourage one another and build one another up, as indeed you do." (1 Thessalonians 5:11) That verse came to mind as I reflected on our parish picnic. The day was filled with encouragement, joy, and the kind of fellowship that builds up the Body of Christ. From the laughter of children to the conversations shared over a meal, there was a spirit of unity and friendship that reminded us of the blessing of belonging to a parish family.



Our picnic was much more than an afternoon of food and games—it was a living witness of our life in Christ together. These moments of gathering strengthen our bonds, deepen our faith, and remind us that parish life is not just about Sunday worship but about walking together in all the ordinary and joyful moments of life.

What struck me most was how naturally people of every age and background came together. Whether cheering during the contests, chatting under the tents, or working side by side in service, the whole day reflected what it means to be "church"—a people united in faith and love.

None of this could have happened without the hard work and generosity of so many. I am especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their dedication in organizing, to Mike Cipriano and Patti Flynn-Harris for their leadership with food preparation and volunteers, and to the countless others who served, set up, cleaned up, and simply showed up with joy. Your efforts are a true gift to our community.



I was so pleased to see the excitement over our special surprise as the Ice Cream Truck pulled into the lot. There were so many smiling faces and people running to get into line. It was such a simple treat, yet it brought so much joy. You could see friends chatting in line, kids comparing their favorite flavors, and adults letting themselves enjoy a little childlike delight. Moments like these remind us that community is built not only through the big events but also through these small, unexpected joys that bring us together.

As we look ahead, may the memory of our picnic inspire us to keep building one another up. Let us continue to live our faith not only in prayer and worship, but in fellowship, encouragement, and service. Together, we form not just a community, but a family in Christ—and for that, we give thanks.

Annual Family Commitment 2025

Each fall, we, as a parish family, are invited to renew our support of our parish through the Annual Family Commitment. You should have received a letter from me this week in the mail, if you did not please contact the rectory office. This yearly effort is not about emergency funding or covering deficits—it is about moving forward together, step by step, as we strengthen our parish home and ensure its vitality for generations to come.

Because of your extraordinary generosity last year—over \$293,049 from 693 families—when combined with monies we had reserved in the past, we were able to complete a major project: milling and paving our entire parking lot, repairing sidewalks, and improving the front piazza. These improvements not only beautified our campus, but also made it safer and more welcoming for all who come here. None of it would have been possible without your faith-filled generosity.

This year, our Annual Family Commitment will focus on **new lighting for the interior of our church.** Our current system is outdated and inefficient. By installing a modern, energy-efficient design, we will both enhance the reverence and beauty of our worship space and provide better visibility for all who gather to pray. This is the next phase of our ongoing improvements to our worship space, helping to create an environment that reflects the light of Christ we celebrate at the altar.

While the sale of our other campus has provided us with a measure of stability

and the ability to address some large-scale projects, this was a one-time blessing. The majority of those funds were invested to provide our parish with stability and security for the future. But the Annual Family Commitment allows us to sustain the daily life of our parish, take on new projects, and continue growing as a vibrant, welcoming family of faith.

Your commitment—whether large or small—truly makes a difference. Each gift is a sign of gratitude to God and a concrete way of ensuring that our parish remains a beacon of welcome, faith, and community.

Thank you for all the ways you already support our parish. May God bless you and your family abundantly for your generosity.



On Monday, September 15th, God blessed us with a gorgeous day for the 12th Annual St. Bridget School Golf Tournament. Sunshine, laughter, fellowship, and generosity all came together to make this year's tournament another incredible success.

What stands out most to me is not simply the fun of the day, but the extraordinary way our community rallies behind our parish school year after year. The support we receive is nothing short of inspiring—a visible sign that so many people truly believe in the mission of St. Bridget School. We are humbled, grateful, and overjoyed by this outpouring of love.



A special word of gratitude goes to our tournament co-chairs, **Christina Anthony and Valerie Macchiarolo**, whose tireless efforts in planning, organizing, and inviting support made the day possible. I am equally grateful to our committee members—**Gina Alden, DeAnna Riggi, Marissa Fusco, Ray Ciasulli, Linda and Ray Manzelli, and Courtney Hansen**—and to the many volunteers who gave of their time and energy to help make the day so enjoyable for everyone! This kind of teamwork is what makes St. Bridget School so strong.

Happiest Congratulations to Vivian Ciampi, the Putting Contest Winner, Chris Tomain, the 50/50 Winner, Jay Binkowski for Closest to the Pin, Sue Planinshek for Women's Longest Drive, and Matt Parkinson for Men's Longest Drive

We also thank our generous sponsors, whose commitment to Catholic education continues to bless our students. We are especially grateful to our Title Sponsors, **Connecticut Investment Advisors, LaRosa Construction, and The Legion of Christ College.** Their leadership and generosity set the tone for the day. We also recognize with gratitude our Dinner Sponsors, **Rosemary and Stephen DiMugno and Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish**, and our Lunch Sponsor, **Canning Liturgical Arts.**

We are thankful as well to our Cart Sponsors, **Romania Law LLC, Six Point Wealth Advisors, SVN Events, Synergy Home Care of Cheshire, CT, and Webster Bank**; our Cocktail Hour Sponsors, **Alderson-Ford Funeral Home and Ion Bank**; our Beverage Station Sponsor, **AJ Waste Systems**; and to our Putting Green Sponsors, **Caiafa & Company Inc., Eastern Fuel Corporation, Elim Park Baptist Home Inc., Carole & Jay Cunningham, Larry Richard Excavating Inc., and Saint Mary's Hospital.**

A big thank you to **Brad Manning, Masseys Plate Glass & Aluminum Inc., New Castle Building Products, S&R Property Maintenance LLC,**

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

and yours truly who were our Tee & Green Sponsors, and to **Freestyle HR, LLC**, who was our Longest Drive Sponsor.

A word of gratitude to our Tee Sponsors, **Aitro Financial**, **Bev Welch** from **Calcagni Real Estate**, **Coldwell Banker Realty**, **Connecticut Pharmacy**, **D.W. Gems**, **Dr. Edward Fitzpatrick**, **F.F. Hitchcock Inc.**, **F&F Mechanical**, **Feldmen Orthodontics**, **A Friend of St. Bridget School**, **H.W. Green Company Inc.**, **Harmonious Homesteads**, **Heritage Benefit Consultants Inc.**, **In Loving Memory of Frank M. Loehmann, Jr.**, **Realtor Joanne Fowler**, **Karen S. Brimberg**, **CT State Council Knights of Columbus**, **Santa Fe Council 2978 Knights of Columbus**, **Knott & Santoro**, **Mad Tents**, **Michael Basta**, **Michael Chabinec**, **Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Manzelli**, **Mrs. Sandra P. Gardinier** and **Mr. Dick Minton**, **Pace Motor Lines**, **Professional Coaching LLC**, **Robert and Rhonda Nonamaker**, **Rose Insurance Agency LLC**, **Rossini's Italian Restaurant and Pizza**, **St. Paul Catholic High School**, **STEAD-**



MATIC of CT, **The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts**, **The Car Key Store**, **The McCormack Insurance Agency**, **Vanguard Cigar Club**, **Viron Rondo Osteria**, **The Class of 1966**, and **Wallingford Yalesville Funeral Homes**. Also thank you to our Green Sponsors, **Jacquie Hamel** and **Provenzano's Deli and Family**. We are equally grateful for our program book advertisers, **Good Bottle Auctions**, **Michael Votto**, **Candy Nesbit** and **Elite Travel**, **Mitulkumar & Jalpa Patel**, **The McCormack Insurance Agency**, and all those who donated raffle prizes. Your generosity made this year's tournament shine.

Our parish school thrives because of this unwavering support from parishioners, local businesses, and friends

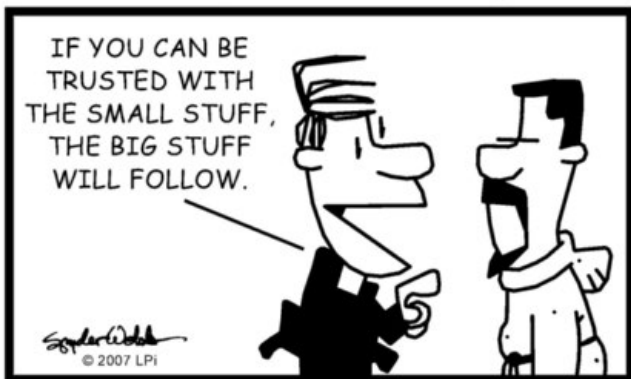
near and far. Every contribution—large or small—strengthens our ability to form children not only academically, but also spiritually and socially, in a safe and nurturing environment. You are helping us to fulfill our mission of educating the whole child: *mind, body, and soul*.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for standing with St. Bridget School. Your belief in our mission and your investment in our children's future truly make a difference.

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. Please pray for me and know I am praying for you!

Father Roman

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Cheshire Community Food Pantry, Inc.
Caring about our neighbors

JOB OPENING

The Cheshire Community Food Pantry Incorporated is looking to hire a new Executive Director, the position is 25 hours per week minimum and may include some weekend and evening hours. Salary is commensurate with experience and training. The Executive Director acts as the primary coordinator of the pantry in partnership with the Board of Directors and works closely with the Pantry Manager to handle the day-to-day operations. The Executive Director together with the Board of Directors maintains the relevance of the Food Pantry in the wider community by continually evaluating the needs of the community, ensuring the pantry lives up to its mission and works together with local businesses to ensure we have the resources needed to meet the needs of our neighbors.

If interested in additional information, please email cheshirefoodpantryjobs@gmail.com.

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, The
Word and Us, & 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, September 20th: Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

9:00 a.m. Stephen Martin O'Connell Ognen Petroff
4:00 p.m. Kristopher Dixon The Brabant Family
Gary Vesentin Eleanor Vesetin

Sunday, September 21st: Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Peter & Lucille Fitzsimmons and
Matthew Fitzsimmons The Family
9:00 a.m. Charles Triano—Birthday
Remembrance Mike & Nancy
Rasmussen
10:30 a.m. George Romania The Family
Kathy Mahmood Mary Ann Gale
4:00 p.m. James O'Leary, Jr. and Ambrose
Carangelo, Sr. Family

Monday, September 22nd

7:00 a.m. John Higgins Bob & Carrie Maloney
9:00 a.m. Theresa Della Selva The Family

Tuesday, September 23rd: Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

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

Wednesday, September 24th

7:00 a.m. Terry Brady Mary Hickey
9:00 a.m. Florence Duhamel Kathleen Hodges

Thursday, September 25th

7:00 a.m. Mary Macri—100th Birthday
Remembrance Family

Friday, September 26th

7:00 a.m. Patrick Russell Karen Hellendrung
9:00 a.m. School Mass—Francis H. O'Neill The Family

Saturday, September 27th: Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

9:00 a.m. Mark Vesentin The Haensel Family
4:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Wempe
and Chamberlain Families Chamberlain Family
George Romania Liz DeLuca

Sunday, September 28th: Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. Edward & Ellen McNeil The Backman Family
9:00 a.m. Mark Vesentin Wilma Buckman
10:30 a.m. Charles Villecco His Wife
Vincent & Grace Buonocore The Family
4:00 p.m. Barron & Hopper Families Family



Our collection for the week of September 14th

Collected

Offertory \$30,186.32
Gaza (addl) \$1,095.00

Online

Offertory \$7,042.41
Gaza (addl) \$120.59

Thank you for your kind generosity!



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

Brendan Cox

Requested by The Moran Family

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

**An End to Violence in Our Country
and Our World**



**Discover the Difference at Xavier & Mercy!
Open House – Sunday, October 26th**

Xavier High School

181 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Open to **7th and 8th grade boys** and their families

Mercy High School

1740 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Open to **7th and 8th grade girls** and their families

Come explore our vibrant communities, meet faculty and students, and learn how Xavier and Mercy can help your child grow in faith, academics, and leadership.

St. Paul Catholic High School, Bristol

St. Paul Catholic High School will hold several admissions events this fall. These events give prospective students/families an opportunity to see that there's something greater at St. Paul for the 2026/2027 school year.

You can register for all the events at the web addresses below. We look forward to seeing you!

Open Houses - 9/27 or 11/15 tours starting at 10:00am
spchs.com/openhouse

Middle School Fall Festival - 10/17 at 6:30pm spchs.com/festival

Placement Exams - 10/18 or 11/22 starting at 8:00am
spchs.com/placementexam

PLARNERS & YARNERS

The Plarners and Yarners use yarn and plarn (yarn made from plastic bags) to make bedrolls, totes, hats, and scarves for our less fortunate neighbors. No special skills necessary, only a desire to help those in need.



scan to learn
more



**Join our next
workshop**

9/21/25

1-3pm

Epiphany House

Prayer Shawls Available

**In need of comfort,
grieving a loss,
dealing with an
illness or celebrating
one of God's
blessings?**

**The Knitting
Ministry wants to
support and
celebrate life's
journey.**

Prayerfully, handmade
prayer shawls are
available at the Epiphany
House

**Please call
Sister Fiat
Marie.**

203-272-3531

Craft Beer & Wine Tasting!!!

Come sip & support the Saint Bridget of Sweden
Women's Society Scholarship Fund!

Saturday, September 27th 6:00 P.M.
Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish Center
171 Main St., Cheshire CT



Santo Pietro Brewing
with *McGivney Way IPA*
and Votto Vines

will provide select Craft Beers
and Wines to sip!



Lots of hors d'oeuvres to enjoy!!

Cost: \$20 per person by September 25th
or \$25 at the door

Name(s): _____

Attending: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to

St. Bridget of Sweden Women's Society

Place form & payment in an envelope marked
"SBoSWS Beer & Wine Tasting" and put in church
basket or return to the rectory office.

Thank you! See you there!

St. Bridget School

Fostering Academic Excellence, Community Awareness and Spiritual Growth

School News and Happenings



SBS gym classes had an *absolute blast* this week thanks to the creatively cool Mr. Niglio, who transformed the gym into a high-energy obstacle course playground!

From teamwork challenges to running themselves silly, students focused on fun, cooperation, and getting those bodies moving. And yes—the **legendary parachute made an appearance**, much to the delight of our inner 80s and 90s kids!

We're so lucky to have a Physical Education teacher (and Youth Ministry Leader!) who prioritizes not just physical fitness, but the **mental and emotional well-being** of our students too!



SBS 2nd graders had an *amazing* time in **Makerspace** diving into the world of coding and robotics! They were absolutely *enamored* when they saw Mrs. Rearick- their fantastic and fearless teacher- make the robot *move* and even *play different songs* just by changing the code! It was a moment of wide eyes, big smiles, and **"Can we try?!" enthusiasm!** Through hands-on learning, they're discovering that they can be *creative, innovative, and confident* problem-solvers — all while grounding their exploration in the foundation of their faith in God.



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

What's Happening in Faith Formation?



This past Monday we had our first meeting of Adventure Club, He Sees Your Heart Mom's Group, and Middle School Youth Group! If you'd like to join us at our next meeting on 9/29 from 4:30-5:30pm in St. Bridget School, sign-up using the QR code! Walk-ins are always welcome.



Each week in this Year of the Bible we will be offering a passage from scripture for our families to read at home!

This Week's Featured Scripture:
Ben Sira 32:1-2



We are still accepting those who are unbaptized, baptized in another faith tradition, or have only been baptized as Catholics for this year's OCIA program! Please call the Faith Formation Office if you or someone you know could be interested at (203) 272-6504 and find out how we will walk with you on your journey into the Catholic Church!

THE OFFICE OF MISSIONARY DISCIPLESHIP PRESENTS

THE HOUSING & HOMELESS CRISIS

BREAKING THE CYCLE

Join us for an informative and inspiring evening on the current housing and homelessness crisis, and learn how the Church and lay ministry can help restore dignity and break the cycle in our communities.

The evening will conclude with a panel of experts answering your questions.

Monday, September 22
6:30-8:30 PM

St. Bridget of Sweden Parish
175 Main St.
Cheshire, CT

FEATURED SPEAKER: JERED BRUZAS
Chief Impact Officer, United Way of Greater Waterbury

Reserve Your Seat Today! Email: Ana.plaza@aohct.org

COR: Into the Breach

Weekly Men's Group - Open to All Men

Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

7:00-8:30 AM

Saturdays - starting October 4, 2025

During this Fall session, we will explore
the video series,
"Why We Worship - The Mass Explained"
by Brant Pitre

*... "this group has been nothing short of transformative for me...
the fellowship is incredible"*

Sessions include coffee and breakfast, short video,
small group discussion.

Attend as many or as few as you can.

Free - no registration required, simply show up.



ARCHDIOCESE of HARTFORD
Office of Catholic Schools

"There's something greater here!"

HOPES COLLECTION September 20 and 21, 2025

When you support HOPES, you support the formation
of our next generation of saints.

The HOPES (Help Our Parish Educators & Students) Collection is an annual fundraiser that provides vital support to our Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

This collection benefits teachers and students by awarding grants to strengthen teaching, learning, and the faith formation of every child in our schools. The HOPES collection also makes it possible for children to access the gift of Catholic education by aiding the affordability of tuition. Every dollar collected is used exclusively to advance the mission and vision of Catholic education.



Please consider supporting the next generation, by supporting our
Catholic schools!

"SOME PEOPLE GIVE TO THE MISSION BY GOING TO THE MISSION. OTHERS GO TO THE MISSION BY GIVING
TO THE MISSION. WITHOUT BOTH, THERE IS NO MISSION!"
POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II



The Cheshire Community
Food Pantry, Inc.
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:



- pasta sauce
- coffee (regular & decaf)
- sugar
- flour
- mayonnaise
- canned fruit/fruit cocktail
- old fashioned oatmeal
- bottled juice
- baked beans
- sweet relish

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
- Monetary donations should be sent to: Cheshire Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 457, Cheshire, CT 06410.

175 Sandbank Road, Cheshire, CT | 203-699-9226



Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Knitting Ministry Meeting

Join us!

All abilities are
welcome!



Wednesday, Sept. 24th
6:00-7:30pm
Epiphany House

For more info, e-mail
montefusco321@gmail.com
or scan the QR code above



Hello and welcome back to Yakety Yak with Father Yates. This week, I received the following question, "Father, who do I need to be obedient to?"

Thank you for this question. When the spiritual life seems too confusing to me, returning to Mother Teresa's writings is a great way to find a clear answer. She is so simple and practical. What should you do, she'd return my question. Go find and care for Jesus: in your home and your community, even in your own heart, she'd reply. And then smile.

From her book *Where There is Love, There is God*, she wrote, "I'm always surprised that God nowhere spoke to Our Lady directly. He spoke through the prophets, He spoke to Moses, He spoke to everybody possible in the Bible, but we don't see anywhere [that] God spoke to Our Lady directly. It was through the angel, it was through St. Joseph, and so on . . . and this is

obedience. That surrender. I belong to Him, He can use me, He can do what He wants with me and to us sisters, God is not going to speak to us."

So beautiful, so clear! Classic Mother Teresa. And yet I wonder, the issue of obedience is a little more complicated for lay people. To whom are we to be obedient? What does it mean to be truly obedient in a lay vocation? What does obedience look like in the family? Earlier in the book Mother Teresa expressed her suspicion that children today have such a problem with obedience because their parents aren't yielding to each other out of love.

Yes, we have people in our lives that have authority over us and we are to be obedient to them. Just as God used others to speak to Mary, God is using other people to talk to us. I cannot be specific about who has authority over us in this article, because it will be different for each of us. However, I believe we can learn from Mother Teresa and Our Mother Mary, that we need to maintain our obedience to those in authority over us. As always, I love you, Father Yates

Welcome
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following families to our Parish family!

***Vern & Janice Adamski
Brian & Dina Angelico
Cody & Melissa Bjerke
Joseph & Mandi Christoni
James Clarke
Christopher & Desiree Dadio
Eva Ann D'Agostino
Reinaldo & Melissa Davila
Edward & Kellyanne Doherty
Sean Dowling
Nikolaos & Jessica Galiatsatos
Neil & Lace Garbatini
Timothy & Sarah Garrity
Elizabeth Grady
Bartosz & Catherine Grala
Nicholas & Daniella Grieco
Matthew & Brienne Hall
Evan & Anna Harasta
Larry & Marlene Lindquist
Robert Marcella
Robert & Joan Moore
Jonathan & Erin Olmsted
Hope Santoro
Daniel & Jennifer Vento
Zach & Hannah Verdi***



Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Friday, October 17, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

\$45.00 Per Person (Adults Only)

**Traditional German fare, seasonal craft beer, wine,
live music with Joe LaDore, fellowship, and fun!**

More information:
Oktoberfest@CheshireCatholic.org

Please return with payment to the parish rectory or school office, or leave in the Mass collection basket.

Name: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Total Amount: _____

Please make checks payable to: Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish



BOSTON BALLET
JOIN US FOR A BUS TRIP
TO BOSTON FOR THE

Nutcracker

DECEMBER 17, 2025 1:30 PM
CITIZENS BANK OPERA HOUSE, BOSTON, MA



TICKETS ARE \$80.00
INCLUDES BUS DEPARTURE AT 8:15AM

CONTACT SISTER FIAT MARIE FOR TICKETS
SRFIATMARIE@CHESHIRECATHOLIC.ORG
203-272-3531



CHRISTLIFE™

CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

Embark on a journey of awakening and revitalization as you come to know Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a more personal way. Travel with a small group through the many questions of life as you go from **Discovering Christ** to **Following Christ**, and ultimately to **Sharing Christ**.

3 Part Series

Step forward into a new love and join us beginning Tuesday, September 23rd.
Day time and Nighttime sessions available

A place to connect over a **FREE meal**, **ENCOUNTER Christ**, and **DISCUSS** with others seeking more in life.

Free Meal & Child Care are part of the program!

For more info, to register, or to join the team, contact Sister Fiat Marie 203-272-3531
srfiatmarie@cheshirecatholic.org

BINGO

THURSDAYS

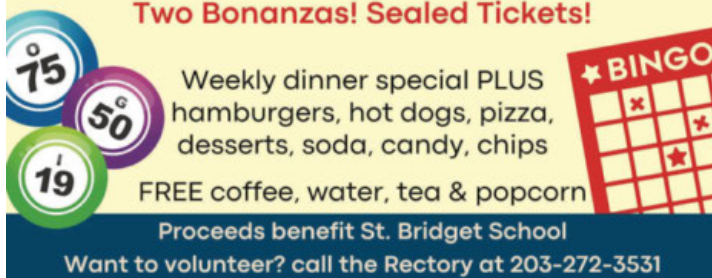
Doors open at 5:30pm
BINGO starts at 7:00pm
St. Bridget of Sweden Parish Center

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Two Bonanzas! Sealed Tickets!

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November 4-5, 2025

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30th ANNIVERSARY
LIVE ON STAGE

Lancaster, PA

New Lower Prices!

\$510.pp double | \$480.pp triple | \$599 per single

Make your reservation and payment before September 16

2 Day 'Noah' Includes:
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1 Night, The Cork Factory Hotel
3 Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
Guided Tour of Amish Country
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Tours of Distinction Tour
Director Gratuities for the Tour
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Grand Knight, John Minardi
Council Lecturer—Tim Orcutt

Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference

"They all ate and were satisfied"—Matthew 14:20

Hungry for the truth? The Men's Conference is a great way to satisfy that hunger.

For the last 17 years Catholic Men have been getting together in Connecticut to celebrate their love for Christ at this conference. I have attended two of them and plan on going this year as well. This year's conference is Saturday, September 27th. Please take a moment to read about what you can expect and how it can help men to understand God's purpose for each one of us.

After checking into the Conference, you can walk around, talk to vendors and other Catholic men, sometimes even engage the featured speakers in the hallway. At the formal start of the conference, they bring in relics from Saints, naming them and placing them on the stage. There is prayer. Then the MC talks for a few minutes and begins to introduce the speakers. These speakers are dynamic and engaging. This year Father Anthony Federico is one of those speakers. I am sure most of us remember his time at our parish as a newly ordained priest. I have heard him speak several times in the past few years, and I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Every year I have gone, I find the talks to be educational and faith building. Lunch is included. And the Conference concludes with a Mass led by Archbishop Coyne. You can see the agenda and the other speakers' names and information by going online at <https://ctcatholicmen.org>.

I strongly encourage you to attend. It is an excellent opportunity to connect with other Catholic men and to hear testimony of loving Christ better.

Viva Jesus

--Grand Knight John Minardi



St. Mary's High School Class of 1965 60th Reunion

Plans have been finalized and it's time to celebrate. Let's get together and renew friendships, reminisce about days gone by and laugh like it's 1965!

Saturday, October 25, 2025

12 Noon - 4:00PM

Brazi's Italian Restaurant

201 Food Terminal Plaza

New Haven, Ct

Please RSVP by September 15th
to 60thsmhs@gmail.com

Payment must be received
by October 5th

Cost is \$45.00 per person

Checks made out and mailed to:
Carol Gwillam
263 Chestnut Hill Rd.
Killingworth, CT 06419



Carolyn's Place
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Two Urgent Requests from Carolyn's Place

1. We are still seeking the assistance of two RN's to volunteer at our new ultrasound program, 3 times per month for a 5 hours.
2. Our current parenting class is our largest in recent years - 14 clients plus support members. We provide graduates with a generous start-up supply of essential supplies like diapers. We are seeking another 15 cases of size 1 diapers prior to October 14th for those willing to donate.

Please reach out to our office at 203.597.9080 to learn more.




Virtue of HOPE

Franciscan Life Center

SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 PM-8:00 PM | FRANCISCAN LIFE CENTER 271 FINCH AVE, MERIDEN, CT



To Register contact
Gretchen Rossi
203-237-8084 or
flcenter.org

PRESENTED BY
SISTER JOHN MARY SULLIVAN
F.S.E.

Join us for a reflection on the virtue of Hope during this Jubilee Year



YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS
CENTRAL CT

You're Invited to our St. Joseph Saturday

WITNESS IN HOPE RETREAT

October 4, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Charitas Christi Center
265 Benham St. Hamden, CT 06514
RSVP BELOW, OPEN FOR AGES 18-39



Breakfast and Lunch Will Be Provided
We Will Have Adoration, Confession, and Mass



Carolyn's Place
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

33rd Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, November 2, 2025 | 3:30 PM

La Bella Vista
380 Farmwood Road Waterbury, CT

2025 Awardees
Bill O'Brien, Sr. Mary Richards, F.S.E.,
Terri Moriello & Kathy Durgy-Concepcion



5 Course Meal	Award Presentation	Silent Auction
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Scan for Reservations

Reservations Required
Respond by October 24, 2025
Reservations Available:
www.carolynsplace.org
or 203.597.9080

Dinner	
\$60	per person



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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
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 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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Traditional Choir
 Youth Choir
 Contemporary Choir
 Resurrection Choir



Marriage & Banns

Please pray for this couple as they
 prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage:
 I Joshua Leventhal & Julia Marrandino

Branches on the Vine

SEPTEMBER 20 - 26, 2025



Father Joseph Benicewicz, a member of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, poses in St. Paul Church in Kensington, where he was the pastor until his death on Sept. 6, 2024.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL



"Father Joe" was a leap year baby, whose Feb. 29 birthday arrived only once every four years. In February 2024, the last leap year, St. Paul School students surprised him with handmade posters, cards and a birthday sash.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. PAUL SCHOOL

Father Joseph Benicewicz will never be forgotten by all those who knew him, especially by the parishioners, faculty, staff and students at St. Paul Parish and St. Paul School in Kensington.

As the former pastor of the parish and school, the Franciscan priest, who died unexpectedly on Sept. 6, 2024, is being remembered fondly this fall through a memorial scholarship, Masses, a run and a walk.

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, four students are benefiting from the "Father Joseph Benicewicz Memorial Scholarship." According to Principal Jill Conaway, four student families received \$250 each for a total of \$1,000 in scholarships. "It's to keep his memory alive going forward," Conaway says.

The scholarships were distributed to students who are practicing Catholics with a financial need, in keeping with Father Benicewicz's values.

"It was important to Father Joe to never turn away families in need, who were committed to having a Catholic education for their children," says Kelly Esposito, director of admissions and marketing, who noted the school also offers other forms of financial assistance.

The priest – who served as a teacher, principal and school president in previous

FATHER JOSEPH BENICEWICZ REMEMBERED WITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP, RUN AND WALK

assignments – loved to spend time with students. Before his passing, he led the St. Paul School children weekly in Mass and prayer, visited them in their classrooms, and even attended their basketball games.

As soon as teachers heard the news of his death last year, they suggested the scholarship in his name and began raising funds for the endeavor. The principal and advancement director got the ball rolling by setting aside a small portion of funds from the "Lion's Pride Fun Run," an already existing annual school fundraiser, to establish the Father Benicewicz Memorial Scholarship Fund. The school's next Lion's Pride Fun Run is slated for Oct. 9.

The admissions director and athletic director also partnered to start the "Father Joe Memorial Basketball Game" in which the basketball coaches challenged the boys and girls varsity team players, all while wearing "Father Joe" T-shirts. Proceeds from ticket sales and concessions went to the scholarship fund. Next year's game is already set for Feb. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Additional scholarship donations are accepted throughout the year and

processed through the Advancement Office, where each contribution is recorded and acknowledged, Esposito says.

Over at St. Paul Church on the weekend of Sept. 6, 7 and 8, near the anniversary of his death, the entire parish just celebrated three memorial Masses, offering special prayer intentions for Father Benicewicz.

Additionally, this coming October, St. Paul Parish will host the "Father Joe Memorial Walk and Gathering on the Parish Green" on Oct. 5, following the 12 p.m. Mass. The 3.1-mile walk will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Polish food will be available for purchase from Belvedere in New Britain – one of Father Joe's favorites. The event will also include games and music.

For more about the scholarship and St. Paul School events, visit ourschool.stpaulkensington.org. For more about the memorial walk with St. Paul Parish, visit stpaulkensington.org.

- Story by Shelley Wolf



Upcoming Events



09/26 FRIDAY 6:30PM

YOUNG ADULT CANDLELIGHT SERVICE & COOKOUT AND CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Our Lady of Knock Parish - St. Patrick Church, 110 Main St, Farmington

Welcoming All Young Adults to socialize with other young adults (age 21+) from surrounding parishes for a fun evening! Enjoy a Candlelight service at St. Patrick's Church in Farmington followed by a Cookout & Cornhole Tournament!

There is no fee, any monetary donation is welcomed. No registration is required - All are Welcome!! These events take place on the fourth Friday of every month with the exception of November and December - so mark your calendar and enjoy the fun! If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office, 860-673-2422.



09/28 SUNDAY 9:30AM

FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL ITALIAN MASS AND BLESSING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

St. Michael Church, 29 Wooster Pl, New Haven

Join us in celebration of the Feast of St. Michael with an Italian Mass at St. Michael Church in historic Wooster Square in New Haven on Sunday, September 28 at 9:30AM, celebrated by Fr. Joe MacNeill. All active and retired Police Officers and Firefighters are invited to attend for a special blessing, as St. Michael is the patron saint of first responders. The homily and blessing will be in English. The Southern Italian Religious Societies at St. Michael will host a breakfast in the church hall after Mass. All are welcome!

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CONNECTICUT

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Bringing together 100+ churches and organizations

27 September 2025

8:15-9:15 am - Registration & Breakfast
9:15 am- 12 pm - Conference

Location:
South Church | 277 Main St, Hartford

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Learn how to recognize trafficking in CT

PANEL DISCUSSION
with survivors and advocates
A survivor's journey from grooming to thriving

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The critical role of church and community

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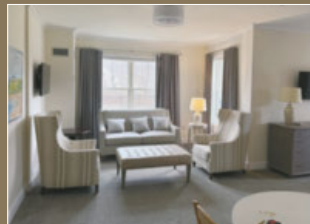


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