

# ST BRIDGET of Ireland

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

1024 W. Main St. Berryville, VA 22611

March 29, 2020



St. Bridget (or Brigid) of Kildare is one of the three major patron saints of Ireland along with Saint Patrick and Saint Columba. Saint Bridget's faith and labors for the Lord are remembered among the Irish people through prayers, sacred places, blessings and customs. St. Bridget was an extraordinary woman of faith: strong in her mission, loyal to the Lord, faithful to the Church, generous to the poor and hospitable to missionaries. St. Bridget laid strong foundations for the Church in Ireland. Her feast day is February 1st, the first day of the Celtic Spring.

### Sacramental Information:

#### Baptisms:

Sunday, after 9:00 AM Mass  
Contact the Rectory Office at 540-277-2943

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

#### Marriage:

Contact parish priest at least six (6) months prior to proposed date of the wedding.  
Contact the Rectory Office at 540-277-2943

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

#### Confessions:

Saturday 4 PM - 5 PM  
Sunday 8 - 8:30 AM

#### Rosary:

The rosary is prayed after the 12:05 PM Mass on the 1st Friday of each month

#### Prayer List:

Contact Becky Jackson at 540-955-1715

#### FISH:

Food collection is in the narthex on the 2nd Sunday each month. Please give generously.

**Faith Direct:** [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net)

#### Mass Schedule:

Please check Mass Times and Intentions *for weekly changes inside bulletin.*

#### Saturday

9 AM and 5:30 PM (Sunday Vigil)

#### Sunday:

9 AM and Noon

#### Weekdays:

Monday & Tuesday Noon  
Wednesday 9 AM  
Thursday & Friday Noon

#### Holy Days:

12:05 PM and 7 PM

#### Nationwide Mass Schedule:

[www.thecatholicdirectory.com](http://www.thecatholicdirectory.com)

#### Hospitalized and Homebound:

Notify the rectory at 540-277-2943 so that the hospitalized and homebound parishioners may receive the pastoral care of the church.

#### Website:

[www.stbridgetberryville.org](http://www.stbridgetberryville.org)

#### Coffee & Donut Sundays:

1st Sunday: Men's Club  
2nd Sunday: Knights of Columbus  
3rd Sunday: Youth Ministry

#### Pastor:

Father Paul Grankauskas

#### Rectory:

P 540-277-2943 • F 540-277-2945  
[office@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:office@stbridgetberryville.org)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12-1 PM)

#### Religious Education:

John Sengewalt 540-277-2948  
[dre@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:dre@stbridgetberryville.org)

#### Knights of Columbus:

[knights@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:knights@stbridgetberryville.org)  
Bus. meeting 2nd Tue 7 PM Hobert Hall

#### Office of Youth Ministry:

[OYM@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:OYM@stbridgetberryville.org)

#### Music Ministry:

Stacy Sefton [Music@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:Music@stbridgetberryville.org)

#### Organist:

Jenny Sorenson [jtsorenson@comcast.net](mailto:jtsorenson@comcast.net)

#### Eucharistic Minister / Lectors:

Chet Lewandowski 540-722-7231

#### Servers:

John Sengewalt 540-277-2948

#### Sacristan:

Becky Jackson 540-955-1715

#### Ushers:

Parish Office 540-277-2943

#### Men's Club:

Meets the last Saturday each month 8 AM, in Hobert Hall (7:30 Breakfast).  
George Darnell [men@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:men@stbridgetberryville.org)

#### Women's Group:

Meets 1st Tues. each month after noon Mass  
Except for July and August  
Christi McMullen  
[women@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:women@stbridgetberryville.org)

**St. Bridget's Bulletin** Deadline Noon Monday

[bulletin@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:bulletin@stbridgetberryville.org)

Ruth Hayes 540-277-2943

## PASTOR'S WORDS

It's hard to believe it has been a week and a half since everything went into shutdown mode. I have to admit, celebrating private Masses each day in an empty church is not easy. I miss seeing everybody's face here each Sunday. Through it all, however, I have gained one significant insight: there is something to be said for Catholics being very territorial about their pews. I know where you all sit, so when I celebrate Mass, it's not hard to imagine you being there with me. Know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

As the shutdown continues, it is my goal to post reflections here on our parish website based on Gospel readings for the day. We start with this Sunday's Gospel: the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

Whenever I reflect on this Gospel reading, I think of Martha and Mary. They are characters we can relate to. When their brother Lazarus falls ill, they ask Jesus to come to them. John tells us that Our Lord waited a few days before setting out for Bethany. By the time he arrives, Lazarus is in the tomb. When both sisters come out to greet Jesus, they say the same thing: "Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died."

I can only imagine the anguish in the voices of Martha and Mary as they seem to challenge Our Lord with an unspoken question: "Where were you? You could have done something."

As we hear about the increasing number of virus cases, as we worry about the elderly and those who are most vulnerable to the virus, as we hear about deaths associated with the virus, as we huddle in our homes with our families and worry about what the future will bring, maybe that same question comes to our minds: "Lord, where are you?"

Here's where we have to remember the reason why Jesus chose to wait before coming to see Lazarus. Lazarus' death will serve to reveal how God is always our salvation: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will have eternal life."

Here is a great mystery for us to behold. A dead man who, in life, believed Jesus to be the Christ, hears his Master's voice and comes back from the grave. True, Lazarus returns only for a time to his earthly life, but Jesus makes his point: he who possesses in himself eternal life – who is eternal life – shares it with those who fall asleep in death. Faith is what enables us to share in that life.

By now, you should have received a letter from me letting you know what we are doing here at the church during this shutdown. I am still hearing confessions on Saturdays (4-5 p.m.) and Tuesdays (6:30-8 p.m.), I had a wedding and funeral here last Saturday, I am keeping the church open for private prayer from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. I want to call attention to the latter.

Do we want to know where Jesus is today? He is present in the tabernacle, in the Most Holy Eucharist. He is present in the midst of our crazy world. We can come and adore him and praise him. We can pour out our hearts before him. We may not be able to receive him, but we can express our longing for him. That is what we mean by spiritual communion. We cannot physically receive him, but we can express our love and desire for him, and he will yet pour out his graces upon us.

What difference can this make in our lives? To be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is to be in the presence of the one who gives us life in ways the world cannot give, who gives us hope that the world can never give. Like Lazarus, we can be united with Christ in faith, and that faith is our salvation. If we are united in faith with the same Jesus who suffered and died for us -- if being united with him in faith means we, too, can share in his cross and risen life -- then we can say like the Psalmist that we do not fear the terrors of the night or the arrows that fly by day, for our refuge is the Lord.

Where else can we see Jesus in these trying times? I believe we can see him in works of charity. As we spend time in the presence of the Lord of Light and Life in the tabernacle, we should remember that we are meant to radiate that light to those around us. How often have heard people say they feel bad because they feel like they could be doing more for their elderly parents, calling them, reaching out to them. With time on our hands, maybe we can change that. Being in close quarters with family day in and day out will certainly be the test of patience, but then how often do we have opportunities simply to be together as a family? If I'm looking at being home with my family as a burden that interrupts my life, we might need to rethink our priorities.

Hospitals need supplies and food for doctors and nurses who are working hard on the front lines. Local charities and shelters are going to start feeling the pinch in the days to come. How often I hear people say they feel they could be more generous to those in need. Perhaps God has given us the opportunities we have been seeking.

## Mass Times & Intentions

Mass Intentions made at the Parish office  
GF-Green Field RH-Rose Hill

All intentions will be said at  
private Mass

### Monday March 30

Noon † Ann Campbell

### Tuesday March 31

Noon Mass Special Intention

Matt & Mark Nelson

### Wednesday April 1

9 AM

### Thursday April 2

Noon Mass † Cory Waite

### Friday April 3

Noon Mass † Luther & Marguerite Long

### Saturday April 4

9 AM

5:30 PM

### Sunday April 5

9 AM Parish Family

Noon Mass

## PRAYER LIST

*Remember the following in your prayers:*

Laurie Custidero, John Blair,  
Fr. Michael Dobbins, Jim Willis,  
Matthew Lewis, David Smith,  
Michael Gessner (Military Service, Iraq),  
Tricia & Courtney Dabney, Phillip Wilcox,  
Jack Cameron, Maggie O'Connor,  
John Caroselli, Fred Curtis,  
Michael Boyd, Tony Tringale,  
Jim Lewandowski and Ryan Otey

Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Milton Hinkle, Vera Willingham and for  
their families.

Please contact Becky Jackson at  
540-955-1715 to be added  
or taken off prayer list.

I am certainly urging you, my St. Bridget Parishioners, to keep an eye on each other, especially if you know someone's living alone. Being self-quarantined does not mean we have to be completely cut off from each other. Keep an eye on your neighbors.

Again, like Martha and Mary we may be grasping for answers in the face of suffering: Lord, where are you? Human suffering will always be something of a mystery to us, but in the midst of it all, we keep our hearts and minds directed to Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. United with him in faith, we, in turn, can come to know the fullness of life and be a sign of his presence in the world.

*May God bless you always.  
Fr. Paul Grankaukas*

## FYI

**Bulletin:** No published bulletins until after Easter but will have a few office copies in the narthex if you cannot get it on our website. The bulletin is being added weekly with additional words from Fr. Paul to our website. [StBridgetberryville.org](http://StBridgetberryville.org).

**Collections** during this temporary period is being handled in the parish office. We really want to accommodate your generous offertory and we would like to ask you a few requests that would help us considerably. If you want to keep up your weekly donations and mail them to us, we can handle that. If you want to make a payment for the whole month, just send us one regular envelope with the month's payment. You may also include the second collection offerings in the appropriate envelope, as we always count and deposit it for the purpose it was meant to be used for. If you want to give cash in your envelopes, please DO NOT MAIL, but you may drop them off in the poor box at the back of the church. We are doing regular pick-ups of both the candles and poor box. We are very blessed in our church family with the most generous of parishioners. Please let us to help you during this uncertain time. The church is open from 9 am-9 pm so please come and pray and let us help.

**St. Bridget Women's Group:** Is sponsoring collection of baby items for the ABBA Center in Winchester and Baby Shower has been moved to May 3rd at 10 AM. Please add items to the Pack and Play in the Narthex. We will collect items throughout March. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Men's Club Email List:** To receive our emails send an email to [men@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:men@stbridgetberryville.org)

**St. Ann Pilgrimage to Shrines of Quebec** Is August 3-13, 2020 with Fr. Paul is still on, now with registration date in May, and may be air or train!

**Faith Direct** is easy to use and directions can be found by visiting this website [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). Our parish code is VA605 or call 866-507-8757 (toll free) for more information. Now would be a great time to start.

**March 29, 2020 Divine Mercy Said:** "The flames of mercy are burning me. I desire to pour them out upon human souls. Oh, what pain they cause Me when they do not want to accept them! My daughter, do whatever is within your power to spread devotion to My mercy. I will make up for what you lack. Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful Heart, and I will fill it with peace." (St. Faustina Diary, 1074)  
"Used with permission of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M."

**Veritas Young Adults Group:** Following the guidance/example of Bishop Burbidge and civic leaders, we will be adopting the preventative measure of canceling ALL Young Adult events until further notice. [youngadults@stbridgetberryville.org](mailto:youngadults@stbridgetberryville.org).

**Save The Date!** St. Bridget Church will be conducting its second annual Vacation Bible School June 22-26. All students age 5-12 are welcome. More details to come.

## Education Program

**Chelsea Academy:** A private, Catholic school for grades 4-12 in Front Royal—is accepting applications for the 2020-21 academic year. Please go to [www.chelseaacademy.org](http://www.chelseaacademy.org) or call 540 635-0622 for more information, or email admissions director Nora Mulhern at [nmulhern@chelseaacademy.org](mailto:nmulhern@chelseaacademy.org). Preparation for College, Preparation for Life.

**Religious Education Classes** will be virtual for the rest of the 2019-20 school year.

## Saint of the Week

### St. Theodosia:

Theodosia was born in Tyre, Lebanon c. 290. During the persecution against Christians, which had already lasted for five years, seventeen-year-old Theodosia visited the condemned Christian prisoners in the Praetorium in Caesarea, Palestine. It was the day of Holy Pascha, and the martyrs spoke of the Kingdom of God. Theodosia asked them to remember her before the Lord, when they should come to stand before Him. Soldiers seized her and led her before the governor Urban after seeing the maiden bow to the prisoners. The governor ordered that she offer sacrifice to the idols, but she refused, confessing her faith in Christ. They then subjected the saint to cruel tortures, raking her body with iron claws until her bones were exposed. The martyr was silent and endured her sufferings with a happy face. When the governor ordered her again to offer sacrifice to the idols she answered, "You fool! I have been granted to join the martyrs!" They threw the maiden with a stone about her neck into the sea, but angels rescued her. They then threw her to the wild beasts to be eaten. Seeing that the beasts would not touch her, they cut off her head. That night Theodosia appeared to her parents, who had tried to talk their daughter out of her intention to suffer for Christ. In a bright garb with a crown upon her head and a luminous gold cross in her hand, she said, "Behold the great glory of which you wanted to deprive me!" Her Feast Day is April 3rd.

## Lenten Thoughts

*"Nothing great is ever achieved  
without much enduring."*

*- St. Catherine of Siena*



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