

*Third Sunday of  
Advent  
December 17th*



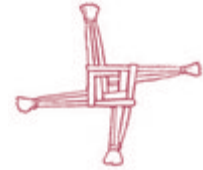
# *Saint Bridget Catholic Church*

*A People called to Know Jesus, to Love Jesus, to Serve Jesus*

**3667 Midvale Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19129-1712**  
**215-844-4126      215-842-2536 (Fax)**

**[www.stbridgeteastfalls.org](http://www.stbridgeteastfalls.org)**

**Rectory Office hours: 9:00AM to 3:00PM**  
**Convent, Sisters of Saint Joseph:**  
**215-844-4126**



**Rev. Robert T. Feeney, M.Div. , Pastor**

*pastor@stbridgeteastfalls.org*

**Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy, M.Div., In Residence**

**Sr. Margaret Jude Sullivan, SSJ-**

Parish Religious Education -

*smargaret@stbridgeteastfalls.org*

**Mr. William Riechers, Music Director**

*music@stbridgeteastfalls.org*

**Mrs. Jane Bortner, Business Manager**

*business@stbridgeteastfalls.org*

**Marie Kwartnik, Secretary**

*secretary@stbridgeteastfalls.org*

**St. Bridget Church is Handicapped  
Accessible.**



## **MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00PM

Sunday Masses: 9:00AM, 11:00AM & 7:00PM

Weekday Masses: 8:00AM Monday through Friday

Holyday Vigil Mass: 7:00PM; January 1 Vigil 4:00PM

Holyday Masses: 8:00AM, 12:00 Noon, 7:00 P.M.



## **Celebration of the Sacraments**

**BAPTISM**-The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated weekly on Sundays at 12:00 pm. Parents are asked to please contact the Rectory to schedule a Baptism.

**PENANCE**-This Sacrament is celebrated every Saturday 3:00-3:45PM and also on Sundays before the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses.

**MARRIAGE**- Registered Parishioners must contact the Rectory to set up an appointment at least six months in advance to arrange a wedding.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**-The Anointing of the Sick is administered regularly. If you are going to have surgery it is advisable to ask for the Sacrament after a Mass you attend before entering the hospital. Please call the Rectory to arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick.

**RCIA**-Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is the program for those interested in Initiation into the Catholic Faith. Information is also available for those who may not have completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). Please contact the Coordinator of Religious Education, Sister Margaret Jude Sullivan, SSJ.

### **LETTERS OF ELIGIBILITY**

A letter of eligibility to be a sponsor (God Parent) certifies that a person is a practicing Catholic who is fully initiated and is at least 16 years of age. A practicing Catholic is someone who attends Sunday Mass weekly, lives the Catholic faith and associates with the Church. The parish policy is that you must be a registered, participating parishioner who attends Sunday Mass for at least six months. To obtain a Letter of Eligibility, stop by the rectory office during normal business hours to sign a letter stating that you meet the above requirements.

**PARISH REGISTRATION**-We welcome new members to our parish family. You may register any weekday by stopping at the Rectory during business hours or by contacting the Church Secretary by phone. Registration Forms are also available in the back of the Church.



Founded in 1853  
By St. John Neumann



### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

**SUNDAY, December 17, 2017**

9:00AM Memorial Fund Intentions  
11:00AM Sandy McIlvaine  
7:00 PM Special Intentions

**MONDAY, December 18, 2017**

8:00AM Honor & Edward Ruane

**TUESDAY, December 19, 2017**

8:00AM John McIlvaine

**WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2017**

8:00AM Arlene (Terry) Hogarth

**THURSDAY, December 21, 2017**

8:00 AM Frances Sullivan

**FRIDAY, December 22, 2017**

8:00 Teresa Hayes

**SATURDAY, December 23, 2017**

4:00 PM Paula Murray

#### **Please Pray for the Sick:**

Jimmy Rafter, Daniel Keating, Dottie Flynn,  
Frances Ensley, Theresa Saulin, Lexie McAlonan,  
Joanne Romick, Joseph Johnston, Gregory Atkinson,  
Lester Segich, Ruth Peabody, Cheryl Cashen,  
Denise Wright, Rita McKinley, Ron Palacio,  
Danny Hannigan, Nancy Clay, Paul Hacie, Jim Israel,  
Shawn Friel, Margaret "Sue" Collins, Chloe Leone,  
Anthony Bonanno, Steven Jones, Michele McFall,  
Abby Snyder, Lynda Sowisdral, Marco Farrer,  
Gavin Smith, John Hernandez, George Gaynor,  
Joseph Ward, Francis Salmons, James Stone,  
Barbara Altomar, Phyllis Corcoran, Stephanie Jackson,  
Joseph Waes, Baby Jessica Jara, Jacqueline Garcia,  
Louis Morrell, Phyllis Israel, Jackie Israel,  
Bill Anderson, Marianne Nicastro, Joan Bailey,  
George Brotherton, Baby Violet Flynn,  
Renee Palmermo, James Mulligan, Bill Kelly,  
Marlee Flynn, Evan Joyce, Fred Pierce,  
Barbara Dooney-Lasher, Dan Margraf,  
Theresa Wilkins, Elizabeth McFarlane, Baby Lilly,  
Renee Fox, Sheena Johnson, George Azzinaro,  
Craig Heiler, ReRe Brotherton, Kathy Gavaghan,  
Charlotte McLaughlin, Franny McKiernan,  
Theresa May, Sue Gethard, Suzanne Oakes

*Please let us know when your loved one is well or has returned to Our Heavenly Father, so that we can remove them from the Sick List. Thank You*



May God Bless You & Yours with a Blessed Christmas & A Very Happy & Healthy New Year:  
From The Priests, Sisters & Staff of St. Bridget Parish.



### **Upcoming Weekly Events**

**December 17, 2017**

Confessions 8:15AM -8:45AM  
10:15AM-10:45AM  
6:15PM-6:45PM

Weekly Rosary in Church following 9:00AM Mass

**PREP CLASSES** 9:50AM-10:45AM  
(St. Bridget's Meeting Rooms)

**Monday December 18, 2017**

7:15 PM in Church Adult Choir Practice

**Tuesday December 19, 2017**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:00 AM Mass

Lottery Drawing at 8:30 AM in Church.

3:30 PM Scripture Study Group in the Rectory  
7:00 PM Novena Prayers to St. Jude Thaddeus, Benediction & Confession after Benediction.

**Wednesday December 20, 2017**

**R.C.I.A.** 7:00 PM St. Bridget's Meeting Room

**Thursday December 21, 2017**

7:00 PM Rosary in the Rectory  
7:30 PM Charismatic Prayer Group in the Rectory

**Friday December 22, 2017**

8:00 A.M. Morning Mass

**Saturday December 23, 2017**

Sandwich Making for St. Francis Inn  
9:00AM - St. Bridget Meeting Rooms  
Afternoon Confessions 3:00-3:45 pm.  
4:00 p.m. Mass



### **Third Sunday of Advent**

**"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."**

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means that you place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation between You & God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.



### **Give Jesus & Yourself a Great Gift by Going to Confession for Christmas.**

Confession Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 16th-3:00 p.m-3:45 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 17th-8:30am-8:45 am,  
10:30am-10:45a.m. No Evening Confessions.  
Saturday, Dec. 23rd-11 a.m.-12 Noon



**“Remember Those Who Have Died”**

**Dr. Andres Castellanos**

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of all our recently departed brothers & sisters in our parish & in our families.  
**May They Rest in Peace!**



This Week, the **Bread and Wine** for the Celebration of the Eucharist is offered in **Memory of Charles and Rita Feeney**, at the request of their Children and Grand-Children.

The Donation for the Altar Bread is \$15.00 for the week.

The **Sanctuary Candle** burns this week

**In Memory of Brian Patrick & Bridget Mary Feeney**, at the request of Their Brothers and Sister.

The Donation for the Sanctuary Lamp is \$15.00 for the week. Please call the Rectory to reserve the Altar Bread or the Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of a Loved One or for a Special Intention for a Loved One who may be sick or to remember a Birthday or Anniversary.



**PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US!**

We invite and encourage all of our parishioners to join us after the 9:00 am Mass on Sundays in front of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to pray the rosary for world peace and for your own special intentions. Mary, Our Mother, intercede for us.



**ATTENTION SANDWICH MAKING VOLUNTEERS**

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with making sandwiches for the St. Francis Inn, on Saturday mornings, is asked to contact Mrs. Fran Chicchi, @ 215-848-5199.

Readings for Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24th

1st Reading: 2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
2nd Reading: Romans 16: 25-27  
Gospel - Luke 1: 1-38



**WELCOME**

We are happy to announce that a Greeter’s Ministry is returning to St. Bridget Parish! Your warm and friendly manner is all that is needed to welcome new and fellow parishioners to our beautiful church. During this Joyful Season of Advent, as we prepare for the birth of our Lord, please consider using your talents as a greeter at our weekend Masses. To become a part of our Greeter’s Ministry, please contact Eileen O’Rourke @ 267-331-6642  
eileenmorourke@gmail.com



**GLUTEN FREE HOSTS** are available for those parishioners who are lactose intolerant. Please see the priest in the sacristy before Mass to notify him of your need, so a Gluten-Free host can be consecrated at that Mass.

**CHRISTMAS TREE**

A Christmas Tree recalls the Holy Trinity by its triangular shape, eternity by its evergreen branches, and also reminds us of our true home, since it points upward to Heaven.



**MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SATURDAY**, December 23rd-4:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY**, December 24th  
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

These 2 Masses do not count for Christmas.

**MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Sunday, Dec. 24th** 2 Christmas Vigil Masses at  
4:00 PM & 8:00 PM

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25th-** Masses at 9:00 AM  
& 11:00 AM



**Welcome, Father Callaghan**

This Sunday, December 17, 2017, we welcome, Father Michael Callaghan to our Parish. Father Callaghan will celebrate the Sunday 7:00 PM Mass at St. Bridget Parish.

## St. Bridget Parish Memorial Fund

Memorial Fund Donation List from December 6, 2017 In

Memory of:

Cecelia "Dolly" Grassia

From:

Dot McHale

We thank all of our parishioners who faithfully donate to the St. Bridget Memorial Fund in Memory of Deceased Family, Friends and Parishioners. The Memorial Fund is used for items needed in our beautiful, historic Church of St. Bridget in East Falls.



### **DID YOU EVER THINK THAT GOD MIGHT BE CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST?**

Priesthood: A Life Worth Living: A Call Worth Considering. If interest in the Priesthood or St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, please contact our Vocation Director, Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy, M.Div. at [www.HeedtheCall.org](http://www.HeedtheCall.org) or by getting in touch with Father DeLacy at St. Bridget Rectory at 215-844-4126.

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

#### **JOINING IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT**

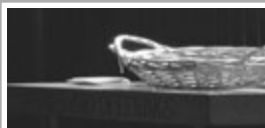
We will be decorating our beautiful Church for Christmas after the 11AM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 17th. We need lots of volunteers to help carry all of the items from the church basement up to the Church. Someone will be present to direct you, as to where to put the stable pieces and the flowers in front of the altar. We thank all of you for your help.



**PREP CLASSES- Classes will be held December 17th, 9:50 am-10:45am in the St. Bridget's Meeting Room.**

### **A CANDLE IN THE WINDOW**

Putting a candle in the window seems to have originated with the 19th century Irish immigrants. It may date back to the suppression of Catholicism in Ireland, when the candle in the window told fugitive priests that this was a safe house. You can explain to your children and grandchildren that candles in the windows are meant to light the way for Mary and Joseph and for the coming of the Christ Child.



### **COLLECTIONS FOR DECEMBER 10th**

December 10, 2017

\$5,963.00 Attendance 385

December 11, 2016 \$8,230.00 Attendance 465

This Year, there was a Decrease of \$2,267.00 in the Sunday Collection.

4:00 PM = \$1,217.00 9:00 AM = \$1,218.00

11:00 AM \$1,139.00 7:00 PM = \$132.00

Mail-In = \$1,782.00 On Line Giving = \$475.00

Envelopes used by Registered Households = 130

Envelopes used Last Year = 191



### **LIBRARY GREENS SALE HAS MOVED TO VAULT & VINE !**

Proceeds support the Falls of Schuylkill Library. Same fresh trees, plants and greens....and much more throughout the month of December at 3507 Midvale Ave.

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**

### **A VERY BIG THANK YOU**

Thank you to all of our parishioners for your kindness and goodness to so many of our families in need and also to our homebound, with gifts

purchased from our Advent Angel Tree.

You truly are responsible for a whole lot of smiles and many joy-filled hearts in our parish and in our neighborhood. May God Bless you for your **GENEROSITY!! MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL & TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!**



### **ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY**

**If you need to get in touch with the ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY, the easiest way is to call the Rectory at 215-844-4126. Press 1 for the Rectory. Once you press 1, you'll then hear a message directing you that if you want the St. Vincent DePaul Society to press 3, then please leave a message. Someone from the St. Vincent De Paul Society WILL call you back.**



**These are the Results of the Lottery Drawing on December 12th**

**Winning Numbers 9-17-19-25-36**

**St. Bridget's Well—\$19,200.00**

**1 CONSOLATION WINNER THIS WEEK**

**Joan Cox \$300.00**

**Good Luck to all Next Week**

This Week, we only sold **613** Tickets; **it is our hope that we could sell 1,000** Tickets each Week, **in order to be successful**, which would be a great source of income for our Parish.

We were **387 Tickets less of our goal** of 1,000 Tickets this week

**The St. Bridget's Well Jackpot Prize on Tuesday, December 19th, will be \$19,500.00.**

As a result of 47 weeks of selling lottery tickets we have realized a profit of \$11,495.70.

Thank you for weekly supporting our Parish Lottery.

Our Parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students from **ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**. Congratulations to **Andrew R. Ameye '19**, who achieved First Honors & to **William P. Martelon '20** who achieved Second Honors



**SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

 **Immaculate Heart of Mary School is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year! They are accepting students in Grades Pre-K-3 (must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2018) through Grade 6. School tours are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays by appointment.**

**Contact Traci Kovach @ 215-483-1103**



**GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE IN OUR PARISH**

Any child in Grade 5 or older who wishes to be an altar server, please contact Fr. Feeney or Sister Margaret at 215-844-4126

**BELLS**



Each sheep in the shepherd's fold wore a bell so it could be found, if it wandered off. Christ is the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. Christmas Bells remind us that God became man to seek out His lost sheep—each and every one of us. He is waiting for all of his lost sheep to return to Him & to the Church through Prayer & Confession.



**HELPING OUT YOUR FORMER PASTOR,**

**FR. JOE DEVLIN & ALSO FR. BILL MURPHY.**

AS FR. FEENEY MENTIONED TO YOU AT ALL THE MASSES LAST WEEKEND, FR. DEVLIN, FR. MURPHY & SISTER ANN RAYMOND, IHM HAVE ASKED FOR OUR HELP WITH DUNKIN' DONUTS GIFT CARDS IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$7.00** TO GIVE TO THE NEEDY, THAT THEY SERVE & MINISTER TO, IN THE KENSINGTON AREA. THESE DUNKIN' DONUT GIFT CARDS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE RECTORY, PLACED IN THE COLLECTION BASKET OR MAILED TO FR. DEVLIN & MURPHY AT THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW:

Father Devlin c/o Mother of Mercy House  
709 E Alleghany Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19134

**"DECORATIONS AND FLOWERS"**



Thank you to all of our parishioners who contributed so generously to the Christmas Flower & Decoration Collection in memory of your loved ones. We sincerely appreciate your generous donations, that help us to decorate & enhance the beauty of our Church of St. Bridget for the Christmas Season. If you would like to make a donation towards our Christmas Flowers & Decorations, and have not yet done so, envelopes for your donations are available in the gathering area in the back of Church. The Christmas Flower Envelopes, with your loved ones name on them, will be placed on the Altar & remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas Season. Thank you for Making our Beautiful Church, even more beautiful, as we celebrate the Birthday of our Savior, Jesus the Christ.



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**Open House**  
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 12:00-2:00pm  
**Entrance Exams**  
 October 21, 2017  
 October 30, 2017  
 www.jwhallahan.com

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