

December 20, 2020

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

Mass Intentions This Week

("†" Indicates this person is deceased)

Saturday, December 19, Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM †Ben Fernandez
by Hyacinth Natrajani & family
4:00 PM †Loreto & Marianna Antonelli
by Nino Antonelli & family

Sunday, December 20, the 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM †Antoinetta Mastroianna
by Joe & Lorretta Hanley
11:00 AM †Juan Serpe
by his family

Monday, Dec. 21, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM A Special Intention
by Elsa Maldonado

Tuesday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM †Maryellen Bolton
by her family

Wednesday, December 23, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM †Caterina Geneva
by Caterina Guarna

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Our Parishioners
6:00 PM Our Parishioners

Friday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:00 AM Our Parishioners
11:00AM Our Parishioners

Sat., December 26, Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Family

8:00 AM †Mary Finnerty
by John & Janet Roemer
4:00PM †Esterina & Raffaele Pes
by Maria Farris

Sunday, December 27, the Feast of the Holy Family

8:30 AM †Denna Sullivan Jambrowski
by Cheryl Conte
11:00 AM †Michael DeBartolomeo
by Vivian & Frank Lucherini

Please pray for the departed souls of our loved ones, grant them perpetual rest and comfort in the arms of our Lord.

~ Financial Support of Our Parish ~

"All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own we have given you." 1 Chronicles 29:14

December 13, 2020

Amount received:	2020	same week in 2019
Weekly	\$1,787.00	\$3,341.00
Retired Religious	\$ 389.00	\$1,340.00
Online Giving	\$1,447.74	\$ 1,942.00
Poor box	\$ 24.00	\$ 200.00
Candles	\$ 177.00	\$ 245.00

Thank-you for your support. Your gifts help us to reach the weekly budgeted amount necessary to run our Parish.



Christmas Mass Schedule:

Thursday, December 24:

Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:00 PM
Christmas Vigil Mass 6:00 PM
(These Masses is fully booked)

Friday, December 25:

Christmas Day Masses - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Limited spaces still available

New Years: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday, December 31, 2020- Vigil Mass 4:00 PM
Friday, January 1, 2021 - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Reservations will be required for all Masses! **Once a Mass is full we will not be able to accept walk-ins.**

There is a special link for Christmas Mass Sign-up on our website. Phone reservations will be taken starting Monday- Thursday, 9AM-2:30 PM

Please contact the parish office with any questions or if your plans change, we do have a waiting list for some Masses.

2021 100% Pledge Drive - Last week we mailed everyone the annual pledge request for Saint Bridget's 100% Fund. This fund has been a long standing tradition in our parish and is intended to bridge the gap between your weekly offerings and our constantly increasing financial obligations. Your pledge will enable us to plan for the year ahead and continue to met the needs of our people and facility. We are most grateful for your continuing support.

We will not be able to conduct the "in-pew" pledge drive this year due to covid restrictions. Please take the time to today to make your pledge. The pledge form is on the back of the letter which you received.

Pledge amounts may be spread over twelve months. They can be made in the pink envelope included in your monthly packet and dropped in the collection box in the rear of the church or mailed to the rectory. Another option is electronic donation via credit card or checking account (visit our website or call the office for additional information).

Payments begin in January, but those received by December 31 are deductible on your 2020 tax return. We do all we can to keep costs down but but the harsh reality is that current operating costs exceed the donations we receive each week. The name says it all, we need 100% of our parishioners participating and supporting the good works of our beloved parish.



*Father Ed's
Christmas
Message*

We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at the end of a year unlike any other in our lifetimes. The year of The Pandemic. A year of unrest, uncertainty and challenges for families, the nation and the world. A year in which the world stood still. A year in which the world needed Christ more than ever.

A Christmas Mass reading from the ninth chapter of Isaiah is viewed in Christian tradition and liturgy as referring to Christ. Eight centuries before Christ, Isaiah, the greatest of the prophets, said: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." The light of Christ shines on a world weighed down by COVID 19. It's cause for rejoicing, for in Isaiah's words: "A child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace." Let us rejoice!

Eight centuries after Isaiah's prophecy, in a Christmas Mass Gospel, the evangelist, Saint Luke tells us that an angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were keeping night watch over their flock. And the angel said to them: "Behold...for today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a great multitude of heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

The Pandemic has had a profound effect on our lives, how we see the world, those closest to us and how we see God. Reflecting on the gift and blessing of the Lord's coming as our Savior helps to put fears, worries and concerns into perspective. For those who question where God is in the midst of the pandemic, the late Father Henry Nouwen offers this insight: "The great mystery of Christmas which continues to give us comfort and consolation is that we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us....Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him whose love is greater than our hearts and minds can comprehend be our companion." God – Emmanuel – is with us!

May the Peace of the Christ Child Be With You.

His Blessings and Love, *Father Ed*

To any and all new people here with us today ... Welcome. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation. We believe that every person who comes here is sent by God. First and foremost we want to express Christ's love for you and share the Father's joy in having you here today. You may be here for the first time today, or perhaps you've been attending Mass here but never registered. We would like to officially welcome you and your family as members of our parish family. Welcome packets are available in the sacristy after Mass or on our website: www.stbridgetofireland.com. Joining a parish is a perfect gift, no waiting in line, one size fits all and no expiration date!

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who supported the parish by donating prizes and selling an unprecedented quantity of tickets. We were able to raise \$13,000, almost double of last year, for the needs of the parish!

- 1.- \$1,000 American Express certificate - Dennis Julian
- 2.- Vitra Deluxe Office Chair - Veronica Fowler
- 3.-Apple IPAD 7th Generation 128 GB - Sam Giannitt
- 4.-LG 50" 4K Ultra HD LED LCD TV - John Roemer
- 5,6 & 7 – Tax preparation for either a Personal or Business Tax Return
5. Ann Vancho, 6. Marianne Lasalandra,
7. Beth Dolan
- 8.- Apple IPAD 7th Generation 32 GB - Barbara Carr
- 9, 10 & 11. -\$270 gift certificate redeemable at "Break-thru Family Fit 4 Life"
9. Tracy & Michael Moon 10. J. Pontoriero,
11. Karen Dolan
12. Sterling Farms Golf Course Weekday foursome with carts - Louis Molgano
13. - \$200 CVS Gift certificate - Geri Reilly
14. - \$500 Best Buy gift certificate - Robert Letennier
- 15, 16 & 17.- \$100 Pellicci's Gift certificate
15. Marita Perillo, 16. Leo Flanagan,
17. Pete Rosato
- 18.- \$100 Slice of Stamford Gift Certificate - Mary Meli,
19. - \$100 Westover Pizza Restaurant Gift -Jeff Dolan
- 20 & 21 - \$100 Villa Italia Restaurant gift certificates
20. Angela Farrell, 21. Nate & Pat Belknap
- 22, 23, 24 & 25 - \$50 Trips Restaurant Certificates
- 22.Frank McEachern, 23. Mary Snediker,
24. Francisco Rojas, 25. Edari Ceron
26. - \$50 Visa Gift Certificate - J. Pontoriero

Just a reminder.. Donations declared for the tax year 2020 must be received by the parish office before December 31st. Any donations received after that date will be applied to the 2021 taxes. Tax statements will be mailed out to all donors after January 15, 2021.