

March 8, 2026

Mass Intentions This Week

("†" Indicates this person is deceased)

- Saturday, March 7, Lenten Weekday
8:00 AM †Camille Gulia
by the Lucherini family
- Saturday, March 7, the 2nd Sunday of Lent
4:00 PM †Gary Belmonte
by his wife Elaine
- Sunday, March 8, the 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:30 AM †Michael Brady
by Farrah Brady
- 11:00 AM †Our Parishioners
- Monday, March 9, Lenten Weekday
7:00 AM †Deceased members of the
Brady Family
by their family
- Tuesday, March 10, Lenten Weekday
8:00 AM †Gerilyn Kancyr
by her family
- Wednesday, March 11, Lenten Wednesday
7:00 AM Steve Russell, *for healing*
by Susan Araujo
- Thursday, March 12, Lenten Weekday
7:00 AM †Eleanor Vaisnins
by Dennis Julian
- Friday, March 13, Lenten Weekday
8:00 AM †All souls in purgatory
by John Witek
- Saturday, March 14, Lenten Weekday
8:00 AM The conversion of China
by Frank Palmer
- Saturday, March 14, the 4th Sunday in Lent
4:00 PM †Antonia & Antonia Tamburro
by Angelo & Fernando Raus
- Sunday, March 15, the 4th Sunday in Lent
8:30 AM † Our Parishioners
11:00 AM †Herman Lucero & Maria Cabrera
by their children

Please pray for the departed souls of our loved ones, especially Margaret Karlin, recently deceased member of our parish. Grant them eternal rest and comfort in the arms of our Lord.

New Members of St. Bridget's Memorial Fund

†Margaret Benoit

enrolled by the Malloy family

†Richard Gabriele

enrolled by Vicky & Milton Moon

Saint Bridget Memorial Fund is for those who wish to "memorialize" their loved ones (living or deceased) in perpetuity. Mass is offered at least once a month for all those enrolled. Memorial cards are available to acknowledge the enrollment. Please contact the parish office to enroll your loved ones.

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

St Bridget Annual St. Patrick's Day Parish Dinner

Saturday, March 14th 5:00-7:30 PM.



Hot corned beef dinner with all the trimmings! This year we have added Shepard's pie to the menu. Don't miss this popular evening filled with plenty of fun, food and fellowship!

Ticket Sales on sale after each Mass. or by calling church office. \$15.00 per person or \$30.00 per family. We are looking for volunteer to help at the dinner, sell the tickets and/or bakers. Please call or email the parish office to volunteer.



If you have not yet responded to the 2026 Bishop's Appeal, please reflect upon the importance of your support to ministry and outreach that relies upon the charity of the Diocese of Bridgeport. The challenge is immediate and far-reaching, but the solution is within our reach!

Please consider the following options when deciding upon the best way to support the Bishop's Appeal this year:

- Make a pledge and spread out your payments over 5 or 10 months
- Make an automatic monthly recurring gift until you inform the Diocese to adjust or discontinue.
- Donate on-line by going to the diocesan website, www.2026BishopsAppeal.org
- Check if your employer will match your gift through the Corporate Matching Gift Program
- Donate a one-time gift
- Contribute a gift of appreciated stocks or securities

Whatever you decide, your gift will be greatly appreciated and make a difference in the lives of others. To learn more please visit: www.2026BishopsAppeal.org.



Today we welcome to our parish community: Salvatore Elio DiPreta IV, son of Kristen and Salvatore Dipreta III. Bless this child and send your Spirit to guide his family as they raise Salvatore in the Holy Catholic Faith.

~ Financial Support of Our Parish ~

March 1, 2026

Donations	2026	2025
Weekly	\$3,177.00	\$2,366.00
100% Fund	\$ 2,062.00	\$1,167.00
Online Giving	\$1,535.80	\$2,486.39
Poor Box	\$220.00	\$40.00
Candles	\$163.00	\$138.00

Thank you for your continued support. Your generous gifts help us reach the weekly budgeted amount necessary to operate and sustain our parish.



A Thirst for Something More

On the Third Sunday of Lent, the Church places before us powerful images of thirst, testing, and living water. The readings—from the Book of Exodus, St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, and the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well in the Gospel of John—invite us to reflect on the deepest longings of the human heart and on God’s faithful response to them.

In the first reading, the Israelites are wandering in the desert and crying out for water. At Massah and Meribah, they question whether the Lord is truly with them. Their physical thirst exposes a deeper spiritual struggle: doubt. Despite all God has done—freeing them from slavery and guiding them through the Red Sea—they begin to lose trust. Yet even in their complaints, God provides water from the rock at Horeb. His mercy is greater than their fear.

The Gospel presents a different scene of thirst. Jesus, traveling through Samaria, stops at a well near the town of Sychar. There He encounters a Samaritan woman who has come to draw water at noon. In asking her for a drink, Jesus crosses cultural and religious boundaries. More importantly, He opens a path to healing.

As the conversation unfolds, Jesus speaks of “living water”—a gift that satisfies not just physical need but the deepest thirst of the soul. The woman initially thinks only in practical terms, but Jesus gradually leads her to a profound truth: He knows her fully, including her broken past, and yet He offers her grace. This is the heart of the Gospel message. God does not wait for us to be perfect. He meets us in our need.

St. Paul, in the Epistle to the Romans, reminds us that “the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” The imagery of pouring echoes the water from the rock and the living water promised by Christ. God’s love is not measured out cautiously—it is abundant, generous, overflowing.

Lent is a desert season. It reveals our thirst. We may thirst for peace, purpose, forgiveness, or belonging. Sometimes we try to satisfy those longings with distractions or achievements. Yet the readings remind us that only Christ can truly quench the thirst of the human heart.

This Sunday invites us to ask ourselves: Where am I spiritually dry? Am I testing the Lord through doubt or impatience? Am I willing to let Jesus speak honestly into my life?

Like the Samaritan woman, we are invited to leave behind our old water jars—our inadequate solutions—and discover the living water that leads to eternal life. In Christ, we find not only satisfaction for our thirst, but hope that does not disappoint.

- Fr. Jim Bates, Pastor

LENTEN CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC



Choral Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross.

Sunday, March 22, 2026 • 4:00 PM, at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine, 359 Washington Avenue, Bridgeport

As the Church enters Passiontide, all are invited to attend this special afternoon of prayerful meditation featuring the Cathedral and Diocesan Choirs together with guest instrumentalists. Musical selections will be interspersed with reflections on the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross. The program is free, and everyone is welcome. For further information, contact the Diocesan Music Office at (203) 368-6777 ext. 22 or william.atwood@diobpt.org.



Our Ministry for the Homeless, Hungry, and People in Need extends a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all parishioners for your extraordinary generosity in our recent food and coat

collection. Your kindness has brought real hope and comfort to those who are struggling in our community. Thanks to your donations, two local agencies received warm coats to help protect their guests during the winter months: Pacific House Men’s Shelter and Inspirica Women’s Shelter. Both organizations expressed deep gratitude for the support, noting how essential these items are for individuals who face harsh weather and uncertain living conditions. In addition, your generous food donations were delivered to the New Covenant Center, helping to restock their pantry and provide meals for individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity. These contributions help ensure that no one in our community has to face hunger alone. Your ongoing support of this ministry continues to make a genuine difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Through your compassion and willingness to give, our parish is living out the Gospel call to care for the most vulnerable among us. Thank you for being a sign of hope and love to those who need it most.

Need more information? Please visit our website:

www.stbridgetofireland.com

REMEMBER?
Set Your Clocks Ahead!
Sunday, March 8