

August 24, 2025

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

Mass Intentions This Week

("†" Indicates this person is deceased)

Saturday, August 23, Weekday

8:00 AM †Joel Grande
by Kathy and Sal Ladestro

Saturday, August 23, Vigil of the 21st Ordinary Sunday

4:00 PM †Christine Camerotta
by Carolee Joermann

Sunday, August 24, the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM †Gemma Louise Llamas
by her parents

11:00 AM †Our Parishioners

Monday, August 25, Weekday

7:00 AM †Joseph Mastroluca
by his daughter

Tuesday, August 26, Weekday

8:00 AM †Pauline Mary Lock
by the Magee family

Wednesday, August 27, Memorial of St Monica

7:00 AM †Gemma Louise Llamas
by her parents

Thursday, August 28, Memorial of St. Augustine

7:00 AM †Enrico Imbrogno
by Angie Lucherini

Friday, August 29, the Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:00 AM †Charles Hickey
by his wife Mary

Saturday, August 30, Weekday

8:00 AM †St. Bridget Memorial Fund

Saturday, August 30, Vigil of 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

4:00 PM †Richard Daly Sr. & Claire Daly
by their family

Sunday, August 31, 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:30 AM †Thomas McKee
by his wife and family

11:00 AM †Our Parishioners

Please pray for the departed souls of our loved ones. Grant them eternal rest and comfort in the arms of our Lord.

New Members of St. Bridget's Memorial Fund

†Victoria Rose DiLeo

enrolled by Anita Finn

†Dr. Kathleen Meenan

enrolled by the Malloy family

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.

Need more information? Please visit our website:

www.stbridgetofireland.com

September Back-to-School Clothing Drive: Our Ministry for the Homeless, Hungry, and People in Need will be hosting a clothing drive for "Clothes to Kids" from September 13th through 21st.



This wonderful organization provides two free wardrobes per year (Spring and Fall) to underprivileged children. Kids shop by appointment and select their own clothing—giving them confidence and dignity as they head back to school.

New Clothing Only, *Please leave the shopping tags intact.* Flyers with details on ages, sizes, and needed items are available in both vestibules.

Thank you for supporting this important drive and helping children in need start the school year strong!

Wedding Jubilee Mass: Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport will celebrate the Annual Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass on Saturday, October 4th at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Augustine in Bridgeport.

Couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 45th, 50 or more years of marriage are eligible to attend. All couples who are recognized at the Mass will receive a commemorative certificate in recognition of this important milestone in their married life in addition to pictures with the Bishop.

Sharon Colihan is coordinating the registration process for the Mass and is available to answer whatever questions you may have. She may be reached at (203) 416-1454 or Sharon.Colihan@diobpt.org and she will provide instructions on how to register.



Ladies Guild Annual Christmas Boutique

– **Vendor Call :** Are you a crafter, artist, or photographer looking to share your talents and sell your handmade items this holiday season?

The Ladies Guild is now accepting vendor reservations for our Annual Christmas Boutique, to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025.

Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged!

For a reservation form or more information, please contact: Carol Nardi at (203) 975-9842 or Clara Grande at (203) 322-2421

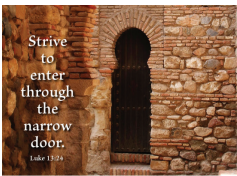
~ Financial Support of Our Parish~

August 17, 2025

Amount received:	2025	same week in 2024
Weekly	\$1,978.00	\$2,666.00
Capital improve.	\$1,616.00	\$ 702.00
Online Giving	\$3,155.75	\$3,029.00
Poor box	\$ 23.00	\$ 17.00
Candles	\$ 233.00	\$ 217.00

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

Salvation: God's Invitation and Our Response



This Sunday's readings present one of the most important—and often misunderstood—questions of faith: “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” (*Luke 13:23*).

In the Gospel, Jesus does not answer with statistics. Instead, He redirects the question toward a challenge: “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.” In other words, the question is not, “How many will be saved?” but, “Will you be among them?” The “narrow gate” is an image of the cost of discipleship. Salvation is God's free gift, offered to all, but it is not a passive or automatic possession. It requires an intentional relationship with Christ, lived through faith, obedience, humility, and perseverance. Jesus warns that some will claim to know Him but will be turned away because they failed to live as His disciples. It is possible to be close to the Church in an external sense—attending Mass, knowing the prayers—yet remain far from the heart of Christ.

The first reading from Isaiah (*66:18–21*) expands our understanding of God's plan of salvation. Far from being restricted to a small ethnic or religious group, God promises to gather “nations of every language” to see His glory. This is a breathtaking vision of a worldwide family united in worship. In Christ, the prophecy is fulfilled—the Gospel is preached to every nation, and all are invited to enter the Kingdom.

The Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 117) picks up this theme: “Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.” Salvation is not a private treasure, but a gift meant to be shared. The Church exists to proclaim Christ's saving work to every person, in every time and place.

In the second reading (*Hebrews 12:5–7, 11–13*), we are reminded that the journey to salvation often includes hardship. The author speaks of the “discipline” of the Lord—not punishment but loving correction that strengthens us for the Kingdom. Just as an athlete must train to be ready for the race, so the disciple must endure trials to grow in holiness.

Together, these readings paint a complete picture:

1. The Invitation Is Universal – God desires the salvation of all people, without exception.
2. The Way Is Demanding – The narrow gate calls for repentance, commitment, and perseverance.
3. Discipline Is a Gift – Trials can be moments of growth when embraced in faith.
4. The Mission Is Ours – We are sent to invite others to salvation.

Salvation is both gift and calling. God offers it freely, but He respects our free will—we must choose to walk with Him. (*continued in next column*)

(*continued*) That choice is renewed daily in prayer, the sacraments, acts of love, and the courage to keep following Christ even when the path is hard.

As we reflect on the narrow gate, let us take Jesus' words personally. The question is not only “Who will be saved?” but “Am I living as one who is being saved?”

Fr Jim Bates, Pastor

2024-25 Faith Formation Registration: St. Bridget/

St. Maurice Faith Formation registration is open. The Faith Formation program **Religious Education** aims to support parents, the primary educators of their children, in teaching their children the Catholic faith. Our experienced and caring team of Catechists are committed to providing a warm and supportive environment where your child can explore their faith.

Please visit the St. Bridget of Ireland website: stbridgetofireland.com, click on “Parish Life” and



scroll down to choose the Religious Education page, or scan the QR Code. There you will find the Registration letter, with instructions, as well as the class calendar. Registration forms 1 & 2 must be completed and sent to Religious.ed@stbridgetofireland.com to complete the registration process.

All classes will start at 9:45 am on September 7, 2025. You must register before Aug 20th. Any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at Religious.ed@stbridgetofireland.com.

Pastoral Care for the Sick and Homebound

We want to ensure that all members of our parish family feel supported and cared for during times of need. If you, a family member, friend, or neighbor is homebound, ill, or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Office: 203-324-2910

Email: parish.office@stbridgetofireland.com

Due to privacy laws, hospitals cannot notify us directly. We kindly ask that you or a designated person reach out to the parish so we can provide spiritual support, including visits and the sacraments.

Let us continue to be a source of comfort and strength to one another, especially in times of illness or difficulty.

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