

December 14, 2025

St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

Mass Intentions This Week

("✠" Indicates this person is deceased)

Sat., December 13, Memorial of St. Lucy

8:00 AM ✠Joel Grande
by Ann Murray

Sat., December 13, the 3rd Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM ✠Karen DeBartolo
by her husband Joe

Sun., December 14, the 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM ✠Our Parishioners
11:00 AM ✠Dominick Fabrizio
by Donna Lee Fabrizio

Mon., December 15, Advent Weekday

7:00 AM ✠Charles Abruscato
by Jeanne Knight

Tues., December 16, Advent Weekday

8:00 AM Margaret Benoit, *Happy Birthday*
by her son Daniel

Wed., December 17, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM Steve Russel, *for support & healing*
by Susan Araujo

Thurs., December 18, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 AM ✠Elizabeth Bedosky
by Dennis Julian

Fri., December 19, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM ✠Jose Pedro Giribaldo
by his wife and family

Sat., December 20, Late Advent Weekday

8:00 AM ✠All those enrolled in
St. Bridget Memorial Fund

Sat., December 20, the 4th Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM ✠Deceased members of the
Cognetta family
by their family

Sun., December 21, the 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM ✠Our Parishioners
11:00 AM ✠Janet Jeffers
by her family

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

New Member of St. Bridget's Memorial Fund

✠Linda Dean Tennis Mysen
enrolled by Fr. Bates

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



2026 100% Pledge Drive

This week, we mailed everyone the annual pledge request for Saint Bridget's 100% Fund. This fund is a long-standing tradition in our parish and helps bridge the gap between weekly offerings and our ever-increasing financial obligations.

Your pledge enables us to plan for the year ahead and continue meeting the needs of our parish family and facilities. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. Please take time today to make your pledge. The pledge form is on the back of the letter you received. Pledge amounts can be spread over 12 months.

Payments can be made using the pink envelope in your monthly packet and placed in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office.

Donations can be made electronically using your credit card, checking account or google pay are also available (visit our website or call the office for details).

Payments begin in January, but pledges received by December 31 are deductible on your 2025 tax return. We do all we can to keep costs down, but the reality is that current operating costs exceed weekly donations. The name says it all — we need 100% participation to support the good works of our beloved parish!

Have you considered supporting our parish via on-line giving? Getting started is easy—just scan the QR code below or visit our website, www.stbridgetofireland.com and click the online giving link.

As part of the new platform, we now offer the option of texting to give donations. Simply text the word **Bridget** to number **73256** and follow the prompts!

This program provides enhanced security, a wider selection of ways to donate, even Google Pay and soon we will offer Apple Pay. It is quite easy to use. It also allows you to choose which funds your gifts support and allows you to track your giving throughout the year.



~ Financial Support of Our Parish ~

December 7, 2025

Donations	2025	2024
Weekly	\$2,264.00	\$2,582.00
100% Fund	\$942.00	\$998.00
Online Giving	\$2,274.45	\$3,144.00
Poor Box	\$211.00	\$13.00
Candles	\$253.00	\$181.00

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



Gaudete!

This Sunday the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday, a moment in the Advent season when the penitential purple softens into rose and the liturgy invites us to rejoice because the Lord is near. The name “Gaudete” comes from the Entrance Antiphon: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. The Lord is near.” Advent is a season of longing and preparation, but today we are reminded that Christian waiting is never anxious waiting - it is joyful, hope-filled, confident waiting for the One who has already drawn close and continues to come to us.

The readings capture this spirit beautifully. The prophet Isaiah announces a future filled with restoration and healing: “The desert and the parched land will exult.” The weak will be strengthened, the fearful encouraged, and the blind, deaf, lame, and mute restored. Isaiah paints a world transformed by the presence of God—a world where life springs up in unlikely places, and where sorrow and mourning flee. His message invites us to lift our eyes and see beyond the present moment to the hope that God is always bringing forth.

Saint James encourages the early Christians to be patient as they await the Lord’s coming: “Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” This is not passive patience. It is the patience of the farmer who actively prepares the soil, tends the fields, and trusts that the harvest will come in its proper time. Advent calls us to this same readiness: to cultivate hearts capable of recognizing Christ’s presence now, so that we may greet Him with joy when He comes in glory.

The Gospel gives us a deeply human moment in the life of John the Baptist, who sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” John, who boldly proclaimed the coming Messiah, now finds himself imprisoned and facing uncertainty. Jesus responds not with theory but with evidence: the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised—the very signs Isaiah foretold. In other words, Jesus is saying, “Look at what God is doing. The Kingdom is breaking in.”

Gaudete Sunday reminds us that even in seasons of difficulty, discouragement, or waiting, God is at work. Like John, we may sometimes confront doubts or wonder where God is leading us. Yet Jesus invites us to open our eyes and see the signs of His presence—in acts of charity, in reconciliation within families, in patience that bears fruit, and in small moments of grace that brighten our days.

As we move into the latter part of Advent, let us embrace the spirit of joyful expectation. Christ is near. His light is growing. And He invites us to rejoice, not because all is perfect, but because He is coming to make all things new.

- Fr. Jim Bates, Pastor



Congratulations to our Winners!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our parish raffle by donating prizes and selling an unprecedented number of tickets. Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we raised over \$13,000, surpassing all previous raffles! These funds will go toward meeting the special needs of our parish.

The winners:

1. **Lois Somody**, \$1,500 American Express card
 2. **Al & Joan Bellatoni**, \$750 Visa Gift Card
 3. **Elmer Illescas**, \$500 American Express Card
 4. **Leticia Quiles**, Technivorm Moccamaster Coffee Brewer and Barazata Coffee Grinder
 5. **Hortensia Franco**, Black Classic Coach Purse
 6. **Richard Lucherini Jr.**, \$300 Shop-Rite Gift Card
 7. **Vita Ienner**, \$300 Amazon Gift Card -
 8. **Arlene Clanny**, \$250 Shop-rite Gift Card
 9. **Hank Parente**, \$200 Gift Card for Capital Grill Restaurant
 10. **Colin Sheldon**, \$200 Gift card for Villa Italia Restaurant
 11. **Mr. Feldman**, Eureka Reactsense Stick Vacuum-
 12. **Sheri Harrington**, \$100 Visa Gift Certificate
- Special congratulations to Lou Molgano for selling the most tickets. In thanks for his extraordinary efforts, Lou wins a \$25 gift card.



St. Bridget Giving Tree Tag Contest

This year we invited students from Grades 1–8 to share their artistic gifts by creating a religious-themed tag for our Giving Tree—and they truly amazed us!

We received many beautiful and heartfelt creations from our talented students.

A special congratulations goes to Stefania Motta, whose inspiring artwork was selected as the winning design and featured on all our St. Bridget Giving Tree tags this year. Her winning drawing is displayed in the parish hall, along with the wonderful artwork of the other contestants, so everyone can enjoy their creativity. Stop in the parish hall to see their amazing work! We are grateful to the students for sharing their talents with our St. Bridget family.



St. Bridget Christmas Mass Schedule:

Wednesday, December 24:

Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:00 PM

Christmas Vigil Mass: 10:00 PM

Thursday, December 25:

Christmas Day Masses - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

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

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 - Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM

Thursday, January 1, 2026: New Year's Day - 9:00 AM