



# Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

*Veritatem Facientes in Caritate*

[www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org)



## Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

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[www.institute-christ-king.org/bridgeport-home](http://www.institute-christ-king.org/bridgeport-home)

[www.facebook.com/StsCyrilandMethodiusOratory](https://www.facebook.com/StsCyrilandMethodiusOratory)

### Clergy & Staff

#### **Institute of Christ the King**

Reverend Canon Matthew Talarico  
*Provincial Superior*

#### **Church Staff**

Reverend Canon Francis X. Altieri IV  
*Pastor & Rector*

Dr. Samuel Schmitt  
*Director of Sacred Music & Organist*  
[samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org](mailto:samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org)

Mrs. Laurie Furey  
*Office Manager*  
[stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org)

### Office Hours

9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Monday to Friday (except Wednesday)

### Mass Times

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Low Mass  
10:15 a.m. High Mass

**Monday-Friday:** 7:45 a.m. Low Mass

**Saturday:** 8:30 a.m. Low Mass

**Holy Days:** *please consult the bulletin*

### Confessions

30 minutes before Mass every day

### Regular Devotions

**Every Thursday:** Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

**First Friday:** Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

**First Saturday:** After Mass, Adoration with Holy Rosary, 15-minute meditation & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

## Masses this Week

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks  
*requested by Grace Monks*

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Mass of the Immaculate Conception**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Albert Falcioni, Jr.  
*requested by George & Nancy Whitmore*

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Saint Eusebius**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Mary Tkacik  
*requested by John Tkacik*

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

### **Ember Wednesday**

{*O Sapientia*}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Caressima Riccio Patton  
*requested by Joseph & Mary Murdocca*

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Greater Feria of Advent**

{*O Adonai*}

7:45 a.m. - Robert Ferrante  
*requested by Mr. & Mrs. Eric J. Ciardiello*

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Ember Friday**

{*O Radix Jesse*}

7:45 a.m. - Carol Yezzo  
*requested by Mary Nelson*

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

### **Ember Saturday**

{*O Clavis David*}

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Father Robert Ignatius Bradley, S.J.  
*requested by Erika & Justin Burt*

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

{*O Oriens*}

8:30 a.m. - Douglas & Bernadette Rowe & Family  
*requested by Colleen Rowe McCarty*  
10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

First Communion Catechism after High Mass  
*Volunteers are needed after High Mass to help carry up the pieces of the Manger.*

Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Week of December 15<sup>th</sup>

Volunteers will be needed to help put up the greenery in church.

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Traditionally days of fasting & abstinence

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Holy Hour & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT {*O Oriens*}

*Server practice after High Mass for the ceremony with the bishop*

**Visit of His Excellency Bishop Caggiano to the Oratory for Solemn Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m., followed by festive reception**

Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS EVE

Office of Prime with Christmas Martyrology at 8:30 a.m. (\* servers needed \*)

Christmas Carols & Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS DAY

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m.

High Mass & Veneration of Bambino at 10:15 a.m.

December 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. {*church opens at 8:00 a.m.*}

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Holy Hour & Te Deum at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

NEW YEAR'S DAY {Circumcision of the Lord}

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m. & High Mass at 10:15 a.m.



## ✠ LITURGY CORNER: Advent Embertide and the O Antiphons ✠

The third week of Advent is always the Embertide of winter. Falling at the four quarters of the year (for which reason they are known as the *Quatuora Tempora* or “Quarter Tense” days), always on a Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, the Ember days are traditionally penitential days of fast and abstinence, although since the reform of the fasting regulations in 1966 (after Vatican II), fasting on these days is no longer obligatory; nonetheless, it is still a pious and praiseworthy custom to fast and/or abstain on these days, for those whose constitution and daily duties enable them to do so. Especially during Advent, the observance of Embertide gives us a good way to strike the right penitential balance proper to this season. In the missal, the Ember days all have their own special Mass formula, with an additional reading prescribed before the epistle for each Ember Wednesday and five additional readings prescribed for each Ember Saturday. For many centuries, it was the custom of the Roman Church to confer holy orders on Ember Saturdays, with one of the seven orders, minor (porter, lector, exorcist, acolyte) and major (subdeacon, deacon, priest), being conferred after each reading. The Advent Embertide has a distinctly Marian tone, which is very fitting: in the Gospel of Ember Wednesday we hear of the Annunciation to Our Lady by Saint Gabriel, and in the Gospel of Ember Friday we hear of Our Lady’s Visitation to Saint Elizabeth.

From December 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> we have the final preparation for Christmas, a period sometimes known unofficially as Wisdomtide, or Sapientiatide, famous for the “O Antiphons” which are sung every evening at Vespers. The antiphon is sung before and after the Magnificat (the Magnificat, Our Lady’s canticle of thanksgiving, is the high point of Vespers, during which the altar is incensed, if the ceremony is celebrated solemnly). According to Dom Guéranger, these antiphons “contain the whole pith of the Advent Liturgy,” and Cardinal Newman calls them the “heralds of Christmas.” An antiphon is a short text sung before and after the psalms of the Divine Office. Each of the great antiphons of Advent begins with the exclamation “O,” followed by a title of Our Lord taken from the Old Testament, then an appeal for Him to come – *Veni!* The first antiphon, *O Sapientia* (“O Wisdom”), gives this week its special name: Sapientiatide, which almost makes it a “season within a season” at the end of Advent. Even on ferial days during Sapientiatide, the Magnificat is sung in the solemn tone; and, unlike the usual practice, everyone remains standing while the antiphon is sung. Because of the fluctuating length of Advent from year to year (barely three weeks or four full weeks), Embertide and Wisdomtide can overlap or even coincide.

Looking backwards from the end of the series, the first letters of the invocations spell out the acrostic ERO CRAS – “tomorrow, I shall be.” The verses of the popular Advent hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* are inspired by the invocations of the O Antiphons. In the Middle Ages, this last week of Advent (especially the first day of the Antiphons on December 17<sup>th</sup>) was a time of mirth: even in monasteries the Advent fast was lightened, and the monks were treated to a special celebration that might include wine, pears, almonds, and other treats. Although it was always the abbot who intoned the first antiphon in the series, *O Sapientia*, it was sometimes a sense of humour rather than a strict sense of hierarchy that decided who would intone the antiphons on the other days. For example, more often than not that it was the monastery gardener who was given the privilege of intoning the antiphon *O Radix Jesse*, “O Root of Jesse.”

### **Christmas Spiritual Bouquet for the Bishop**

If you wish to participate in a spiritual bouquet for His Excellency Bishop Caggiano, please fill out a sheet at one of the church entrances or e-mail the office, indicating the number and nature of the devotions you wish to offer for our bishop. Please make sure to hand it in by Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>!

### **Institute Christmas Cards**

\$20 per pack

### **Institute Calendars**

\$10 each

*Please make out checks to:*

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING

## We welcome you today to Saints Cyril and Methodius Oratory!

If this is your first time here, we look forward to meeting you. We hope you will be able to join us for our next parish social. If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at Saints Cyril & Methodius Oratory are celebrated in the traditional Latin Rite. This form of worship, which developed many centuries ago, is a priceless treasure of our Catholic faith. On Sundays and feasts, there are handouts containing English translations of the Propers (the prayers and readings proper to the day). If you are unfamiliar with the traditional Latin Mass, please do not hesitate to approach the clergy of the Oratory with any questions you may have. The pastoral care of the Oratory has been entrusted by the Bishop of Bridgeport to the clergy of the Institute of Christ the King, a Catholic priestly society founded in 1990 and currently ministering in dioceses across the United States, Europe and Africa.

Holy communion may be received by practicing Catholics in the state of grace. In the traditional Roman Rite, holy communion is received kneeling at the communion rail (unless you are impaired from doing so) and directly on the tongue. The mouth should be open with the tongue slightly extended. You do not reply when the priest places the host in your mouth. The sacrament of confession is available every day 30 minutes before the start of Mass (ending approximately 7 minutes before Mass begins).

The church narthex (vestibule) functions as a cry room during Mass. As a courtesy to others, please feel free to make use of it when you have a crying child by exiting quietly down one of the side aisles. Everyone is kindly reminded that all conversations should be held outside.

Out of respect for God's house, please bear in mind the importance of modest and decent attire. Ladies who wish to do so may borrow a veil to wear at Mass (available in baskets by the entrances).

If you are not a Catholic, you are warmly invited to learn more about our faith. The Catholic Church was founded 2000 years ago by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to carry on His work for the salvation of souls. If you are interested in becoming Catholic or simply want to learn more about the Catholic faith, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Oratory offers individual instruction. We look forward to hearing from you.

### ADVENT CLOTHING DRIVE

Today is the last day for the collection of items for the center run by the Daughters of Charity of the Precious Blood here in Bridgeport. The items being collected are: cold-weather clothing and accessories for children and adults (all sizes). Please drop off your items in the receptacle at the back entrance to church. Thank you for your charity!

### Epiphany "Tableau Vivant"

If any children would like to participate in a musical *tableau vivant* at the Epiphany Party on January 6<sup>th</sup> please contact the church office. We will need the Holy Family, the Magi, angels, star children ... and a camel!

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**at 6:00 p.m.**

**Solemn Vespers & Benediction  
with Bishop Caggiano**



*There will be a festive reception with seasonal treats afterwards in the church hall. We hope to see you all there for this important event with our bishop!*

December 14<sup>th</sup> 2025

Third Sunday of Advent