



# 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 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

Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Saint Thomas the Apostle

{*transferred feast - O Rex gentium*}

7:45 a.m. - Living & Deceased Members

of the Kelly & Daly Families

*requested by the Daly Family*

Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Greater Feria of Advent

{*O Emmanuel*}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Irene Grimm

*requested by Thomas & Lisa DeFelice*

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

### Vigil of Christmas

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Donald & Sheila Woods

*requested by Daniel Orazio*

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

### CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00 a.m. - Augustine & Daniel (✠) Jarosko

*requested by Daniel Orazio*

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Ann Collins

*requested by Kate Prendergast*

Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

### Saint Stephen the Protomartyr

\* NOTE TIME: 8:30 a.m. - Martin & Anne (✠) Hamar

*requested by Rod Hamar*

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

### Saint John the Divine

8:30 a.m. - Maura Hegley & Children

*requested by Colleen Rowe McCarty*

Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>

### FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ John & Ethel Kashulon

*requested by Daniel Orazio*



## Upcoming Events

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 \*)

*After Prime, volunteers will be needed to help fill and light the luminaries outside.*

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.*}

**Servers will be needed for week-day Mass and Sunday Low Mass while Abbé is away on vacation from December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup> (inclusive).**

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

SAINT JOHN'S DAY

Blessing of wine after Mass {*please place on table*}

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>

CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD {*New Year's Day*}

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

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

Solemn First Vespers of the Epiphany at 6:00 p.m., followed by blessing Epiphany water {bring your empty container to fill from the large receptacle}

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

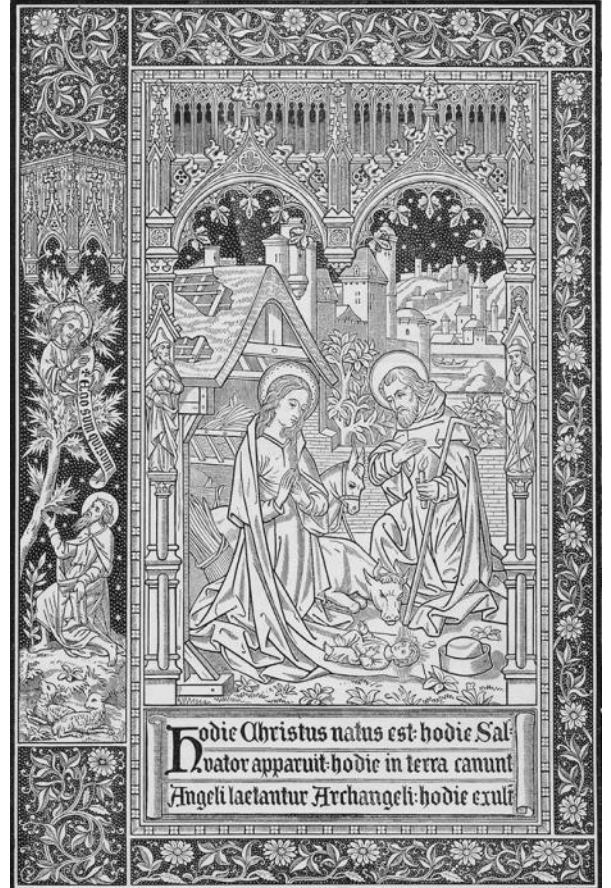
Solemn Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by party

## ON THE THREE MASSES OF CHRISTMAS

*Christmas is the only day of the year which has three different Masses assigned to it in the missal (on other days, even if multiple Masses are celebrated, the same Mass formula is simply repeated several times; the custom of offering three different Masses on All Souls Day was introduced in the early twentieth century, but even there, it is only the readings and orations which differ). The First Mass is offered at midnight, between Matins and Lauds. The Second Mass is offered at dawn, after Prime. The Third Mass is offered in broad day, after Terce. Here follows the explanation given by Saint Thomas Aquinas of the three Christmas Masses.*

On Christmas Day several Masses are said on account of Christ's threefold nativity. Of these the first is His eternal birth, which is hidden in our regard, and therefore one Mass is sung in the night, in the Introit of which we say: "The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee" (Psalm 2:7). The second is His nativity in time, and the spiritual birth, whereby Christ rises "as the day-star in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19), and on this account the Mass is sung at dawn, and in the Introit we say: "The light will shine on us today" (Isaias 9:2). The third is Christ's temporal and bodily birth, according as He went forth from the virginal womb, becoming visible to us through being clothed with flesh: and on that account the third Mass is sung in broad daylight, in the Introit of which we say: "A child is born to us" (Isaias 9:6). Nevertheless, on the other hand, it can be said that His eternal generation, of itself, is in the full light, and on this account in the Gospel of the third Mass mention is made of His eternal birth. But regarding His birth in the body, He was literally born during the night, as a sign that He came to the darkneses of our infirmity; hence also in the Midnight Mass we say the Gospel of Christ's nativity in the flesh.

— from the *SUMMA THEOLOGICÆ, Part III, Question 83, article 2*



### Christ is born! Let us rejoice!

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

On behalf on the superiors of our religious community, the Institute of Christ the King, I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas. Thank you for joining us to celebrate this great feast here at the Oratory, with all the beauty offered by the traditional Catholic liturgy. Many thanks to our dedicated choir and altar servers, as well as to our generous volunteers, who have done so much to make this celebration so splendid!

Please note the modified Mass and church opening times for the days during the Octave of Christmas. Christmas, as you know, is not just a one-day affair: the Christmas season lasts for 40 days in all. On New Year's Eve we will have a Eucharistic holy hour at 6:00 p.m., concluding with the singing of the *Te Deum* in thanksgiving for the many graces we have all received in the last year. The feasts of Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>) and Candlemas (February 2<sup>nd</sup>) are highlights of this season, which we should all plan to attend. You can always find a list of upcoming events in the weekly bulletin and on our social media page.

Wishing God's blessings upon you all in the coming year, yours faithfully,

— Canon Altiere, Rector of Saints Cyril & Methodius

## 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.

### CONFIRMATIONS 2026

The sacrament of confirmation will be administered at the Oratory on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> by His Eminence Cardinal Burke. Catechism classes will begin in January. These classes are mandatory for all candidates. Please register with the church office as soon as possible.

### 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. – TODAY!**

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent