



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Veritatem Facientes in Caritate

www.institute-christ-king.org



Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

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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

Mrs. Laurie Furey
Office Manager
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 7th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{*Saint Ambrose*}

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - Christopher Pryor
requested by Linda Pryor

Monday, December 8th

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

7:45 a.m. - Pro Populo

6:00 p.m. - ✠ Leo Whitmore
requested by George & Nancy Whitmore

Tuesday, December 9th

Mass of the Immaculate Conception

7:45 a.m. - Price Family Intentions
requested by Scott & Suzanne Price

Wednesday, December 10th

Mass of the Immaculate Conception

7:45 a.m. - ✠ John Butwell, Sr. & Jesse Butwell
requested by Richard & Rita Cleary

Thursday, December 11th

Saint Damasus

7:45 a.m. - Maura Hegley & Family
requested by T.R. & Michelle Rowe & Family

Friday, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Sam & Charlotte Vendetti
requested by June Vendetti

Saturday, December 13th

Saint Lucy

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Carl Q. Nelson
requested by Mary Nelson

Sunday, December 14th

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo
10:15 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks
requested by Grace Monks



Upcoming Events

December 1st through 14th

Winter clothing drive

Sunday, December 7th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{“Invite-a-Friend Sunday”}

Solemn Mass with guest preacher Father Juan Carlos Rivera Castro, S.J., followed by social hour
Solemn Choral Vespers & Benediction (First Vespers of the Immaculate Conception) at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8th

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

{*holy day of obligation*}

Low Mass at 7:45 a.m. & High Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 11th

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

Sunday, December 14th

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

Week of December 15th

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

Sunday, December 21st

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

December 26th to 31st

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. {*church opens 7:45 a.m.*}

Saturday, January 10th

First meeting of Confirmation Catechism Class at 9:30 a.m. in the church hall

Sunday, January 11th

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Blessing of children after both Masses

Canon's Annual Young Adults Epiphany brunch after the High Mass

The “Patron Saints” of Advent: Lessons from the Liturgy

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

As we would expect, Our Lady plays an important role in the spirit and liturgy of Advent. During Advent (and Christmastide), the Divine Office concludes every day with the Marian antiphon *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. The prayer recited after the *Alma* during Advent (*Gratiam tuam*) is the same prayer which is said after the Angelus (although the *Alma* is also recited during Christmastide, a different concluding prayer is used in that season). The Ember Days (third week) of Advent bring us the Gospels of the Annunciation and Visitation, and so this week has a distinct Marian tone to it. It is not by coincidence that the great feast of the Immaculate Conception always falls during Advent. It was by this singular privilege, designed to prepare a worthy dwelling place for the Incarnate Word, that God put into motion his plan for the salvation of the human race. On the Sundays of Advent, it is most fitting to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. In all, about 25 Advent liturgical texts (antiphons, responsories, etc.) speak of Mary. The so-called Rorate Mass (named after the first word of the Introit) is the votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin celebrated during Advent, often before daybreak and accompanied by candlelight. It can be offered on the ferias of Advent (weekdays when there is no feast in the calendar), although some countries enjoy an indult (privilege) allowing this votive Mass on other days of Advent, in some cases most days. The “Golden Mass,” or *Missa aurea*, as it is popularly known, is the Rorate Mass celebrated on the Ember Wednesday of Advent, a Mass which was especially beloved by our mediaeval ancestors, and expectant mothers in particular made a point of attending it.

ISAIAS THE PROPHET

Isaias is one of four Old Testament figures called the Major Prophets. Indeed, he is sometimes nicknamed the “Fifth Evangelist” (Gospel writer), because his predictions of Our Lord’s life – especially his Passion – are so clear that they give the impression of having been recorded by an eye witness. All through Advent, the readings at the Divine Office of Matins are taken from Isaias. His prophecies concerning the miraculous Virgin Birth of the Messiah make him a fitting prophet for this season, especially: “Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son” (7:14), and “Before she was in labour, she brought forth” (66:7). Isaias lived in the eighth century B.C., and he is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on July 6th. The versicle *Rorate cali*, “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One,” which is sung every day in Advent at Vespers, is taken from Isaias. He was martyred by being sawed in twain under King Manasses.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Our Lord’s kinsman Saint John the Baptist, the son of Zachary and Elizabeth, is the last and greatest of all the prophets. Three of the four Sunday Gospels (second through fourth Sundays) of Advent focus on the character and ministry of Saint John. His cry, *Parate viam Domini*, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” is sung as a versicle every morning of Advent at the office of Lauds. The figure of Saint John reminds us that Advent is not in fact merely a preparation for Christmas, the commemoration of the historical birth of Our Saviour, but a preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord, for which we must prepare by doing penance. Along with Our Lord himself and the Virgin Mary, Saint John is the only person whose birth is celebrated with a liturgical feast (June 24th). With the gradual increase of daylight after Christmas and the gradual shortening of daylight after the Nativity of Saint John, nature herself seems symbolically to confirm this word of the great Forerunner: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). A secondary feast in honour of his beheading is kept on August 29th. He is a martyr for the sanctity of marriage.

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 18th!

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 parish social today. 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

This Advent, the Oratory is collecting 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!

“Accountability Sunday”

In keeping with diocesan policy, you can find the annual posting of the parish financial summary on our website (it will appear under the “Bulletins” tab, in conjunction with this Sunday's bulletin entry).

FEAST OF OUR LADY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sunday, December 7th
Solemn Choral First Vespers
of the Feast & Benediction
at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8th
Holy Day of Obligation
Low Mass at 7:45 a.m.
Act of Consecration
& High Mass at 6:00 p.m.

December 7th 2025

Second Sunday of Advent