



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, February 22nd

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Collin George Whitmore

requested by Grandparents

10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo

Monday, February 23rd

Monday in the First Week of Lent

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Mr. George J. Hough

requested by George & Melissa Hough

Tuesday, February 24th

Saint Matthias, Apostle

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Monsignor Joseph Pekar

requested by Greg Mikulka

Wednesday, February 25th

Ember Wednesday of Lent

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Carmelo & Mary Riolo

requested by Mr. & Mrs. Felice DeFelice

Thursday, February 26th

Thursday in the First Week of Lent

7:45 a.m. - Samuel Martinez

requested by Mirna Martinez

Friday, February 27th

Ember Friday of Lent

7:45 a.m. - Kendall Simmons

requested by Kevin & Linda Gaboardi

Saturday, February 28th

Ember Saturday of Lent

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Joseph Tkacik

requested by John Tkacik

Sunday, March 1st

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - Paul & Margaret Cleary

requested by Richard & Rita Cleary



Upcoming Events

LENTEN SERMON SERIES

“The Seven Last Words of
Our Saviour from the Cross”

every Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 22nd

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sermon: “Father, forgive them”

Annual special second collection to support the work of the U.S. province of the Institute

First Holy Communion Catechism Class after Mass

Diocese of Bridgeport “Called by Name” campaign

** No Vespers or Benediction **

Tuesday, February 24th

Adult Theology Class at 7:00 p.m.

Theme: “The Most Holy Eucharist”

Thursday, February 26th

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

Friday, February 27th

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., followed by veneration of the relic and confessions

Sunday, March 1st

Solemn Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays of March

Devotions to Saint Joseph after morning Mass

Saturday, March 14th

Confirmation Catechism Class at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 15nd

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Annual Lætare Sunday celebration after High Mass

Please sign up to bring Simnel Cake or other treats!

Saturday, March 28th

Confirmation Catechism Class at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 9th

Confirmation with His Eminence Cardinal Burke

Please register your child for the sacrament if you have not already done so; candidates from other parishes may be confirmed here with their pastor’s permission.

SPIRITUAL AND LITURGICAL REFLECTIONS FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Yesterday the world was busy in its pleasures, and the very children of God were taking a joyous farewell to mirth: but this morning, all is changed. The solemn announcement, spoken of by the prophet, has been proclaimed in Sion: the solemn fast of Lent, the season of expiation, the approach of the great anniversaries of our Redemption. Let us, then, rouse ourselves, and prepare for the spiritual combat.

But in this battling of the spirit against the flesh we need good armor. Our holy mother the Church knows how much we need it; and therefore does she summon us to enter into the house of God, that she may arm us for the holy contest. What this armor is we know from Saint Paul, who thus describes it: *Have your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of justice, and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. In all things, taking the shield of faith. Take unto you the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* The very prince of the apostles, too addresses these solemn words to us: *Christ having suffered in the flesh, be ye also armed with the same thought.* We are entering today upon a long campaign of warfare spoken of by the apostles: forty days of battle, forty days of penance. We shall not turn cowards, if our souls can but be impressed with the conviction that the battle and the penance must be gone through. Let us listen to the eloquence of the solemn rite which opens our Lent. Let us go whither our mother leads us, that is, to the scene of the fall.

The enemies we have to fight with are of two kinds: internal and external. The first are our passions; the second are the devils. Both were brought on us by pride, and man's pride began when he refused to obey his God. God forgave him his sin, but He punished him. The punishment was death, and this was the form of the divine sentence: *Thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt return.* Oh that we had remembered this! The recollection of what we are and what we are to be would have checked that haughty rebellion which has so often led us to break the law of God. And if, for the time to come, we would persevere in loyalty to Him, we must humble ourselves, accept the sentence, and look on this present life as a path to the grave. The path may be long or short; but to the tomb it must lead us. Remembering this, we shall see all things in their true light. We shall love that God who has deigned to set His heart on us notwithstanding our being creatures of death: we shall hate, with deepest contrition, the insolence and ingratitude wherewith we have spent so many of our few days of life, that is, in sinning against our heavenly Father: and we shall be not only willing, but eager, to go through these days of penance, which He so mercifully gives us for making reparation to His offended justice.

This was the motive the Church had in enriching her liturgy with the solemn rite at which we are to assist this morning. When upwards of a thousand years ago she decreed the anticipation of the Lenten fast by the last four days of Quinquagesima week, she instituted this impressive ceremony of signing the forehead of her children with ashes, while saying to them those awful words wherewith God sentenced us to death: *Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt return!* But making use of ashes as a symbol of humiliation and penance is of a much earlier date than the institution we allude to. We find frequent mention of it in the Old Testament. Job, though a Gentile, sprinkled his flesh with ashes, that thus humbled, he might propitiate the divine mercy: and this was two thousand years before the coming of our Savior. The royal prophet tells us of himself, that he mingled ashes with his bread, because of the divine anger and indignation. Many such examples are to be met with in the sacred Scriptures; but so obvious is the analogy between the sinner who thus signifies his grief, and the object whereby he signifies it, that we read such instances without surprise. When fallen man would humble himself before the divine justice, which has sentenced his body to return to dust, how could he more aptly express his contrite acceptance of the sentence, than by sprinkling himself, or his food, with ashes, which is the dust of wood consumed by fire? This earnest acknowledgement of his being himself but dust and ashes is an act of humility, and humility ever gives him confidence in that God who resists the proud and pardons the humble.

—from Dom Prosper Guéranger's commentary on *Ash Wednesday* in THE LITURGICAL YEAR

We welcome you to Saints Cyril and Methodius!

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.

* TODAY * Sunday, February 22nd **SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION** **"Many Apostolates, One Mission"**

Help the Institute of Christ the King continue to restore Catholic life and culture in the U.S.A.! You can use the special envelopes or donate online with this QR code.



FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

Consider joining other parishioners spending 30 minutes in prayer on the sidewalk at the Bridgeport vigil location, **4697 Main Street**. A group from our parish will gather at the vigil site to pray beginning at 9:45 a.m. on February 28th.

Join others from the community to protect mothers and children in this effort to pray and fast for an end to abortion during the spring campaign, February 18th to March 29th. Help save lives!

Learn more and sign up for prayer times at 40daysforlife.com/Bridgeport.

Local contact is bgrabows@aol.com



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be held at 6:00 p.m. (on First Friday, after Mass), followed by the veneration of the relic of the True Cross and confessions.

February 22nd 2026

First Sunday of Lent