



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 Superiors

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz, S.T.D., J.C.D.
Vicar General of the Institute

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
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Mass Times

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

Monday-Saturday: 7:45 a.m. Low Mass

Holy Days: *please consult the bulletin*

Confessions

30 minutes before Mass every day (Sundays before both Masses) & First Fridays from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. (during Adoration)

Devotions

Every Thursday: Holy Hour at 6 p.m.

First Friday: Additional Mass at 6 p.m., preceded by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 5 p.m.

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

Weekly Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, December 18th

{*O Adonai*}

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. - Michael & Janelle Manoni & Family
requested by George Smith & Denise Manoni-Smith

10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo

6:00 p.m. - Vespers & Benediction

Monday, December 19th

{*O Radix Jesse*}

Greater Feria of Advent

7:45 a.m. - David Baur

requested by George & Nancy Whitmore

Tuesday, December 20th

{*O Clavis David*}

Vigil of Saint Thomas

7:45 a.m. - Holy Souls in Purgatory
requested by Anonymous

Wednesday, December 21st

{*O Oriens*}

Saint Thomas the Apostle

7:45 a.m. - Franklin H., Irene M. & Paulette Ellison
requested by Irene Ellison

Thursday, December 22nd

{*O Rex Gentium*}

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Harry Rajamannan
requested by Frank & Desiree Altieri

Friday, December 23rd

{*O Emmanuel*}

Greater Feria of Advent

7:45 a.m. - Abbé Paul McKown
requested by Parishioners

Saturday, December 24th

Vigil of Christmas

7:45 a.m. - Martin & Anne Hamar
requested by their son

Sunday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00 a.m. - Canon Matthew Talarico
requested by parishioners

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Edward & Adeline Reyen
requested by Edward Reyen

10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo



Upcoming Events

December 17th to 24th

Christmas Novena prayers every day after Mass

Sunday, December 18th

Brief "meet and greet" in the church hall after the High
Mass for all healthcare professionals in the parish

* Server practice after Mass for Solemn Vespers *
Solemn Choral Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.,
followed by reception in the church hall

Thursday, December 22nd

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

Saturday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

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

Sunday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

No public Vespers

December 26th to 31st

Special temporary week-day Mass schedule: Holy
Mass at 8:00 a.m., with confessions *afterwards*
(church will open at 7:45 a.m. all week)

Tuesday, December 27th

FEAST OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Traditional blessing of wine after morning Mass

Saturday, December 31st

Holy Hour with Te Deum & Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament at 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 5th

EPIPHANY EVE

First Vespers & Water Blessing at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6th

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Solemn Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by traditional
blessing of chalk

Sunday, January 8th

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Blessing of children after both Masses

✠ WISDOMTIDE: THE SEASON OF THE O ANTIPHONS ✠

From a liturgical point of view, the season of Advent can be divided into four unequal parts. (1) The first two weeks of Advent introduce the standard elements of the season: the violet vestments; the suppression of the *Gloria* at all Masses of the season and of the *Alleluia* on Advent ferias during the week; the proper liturgical texts, such as the hymn *Creator alme siderum* at Vespers. (2) Gaudete Sunday, the third of the four Sundays of Advent, introduces the second half of the season, and from now on at Matins we hear *Prope est jam Dominus*, “the Lord is now near,” instead of *Adoremus venturum Dominum*, “Let us adore the Lord who is to come,” which we hear in the first two weeks. This second phase of Advent is also called Embertide, because the winter Ember Days always fall on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this third week. (3) From December 17th to 23rd we have a “mini-season” unofficially known as “Wisdomtide,” about which we shall say more in a moment. 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. (4) Christmas Eve, or the Vigil of Christmas, on December 24th forms the capstone of the Advent season, and although it is barely a day long (because already with Vespers that afternoon the feast of Christmas begins), it has its own unique liturgy. This Vigil is so important that if it falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy of the Vigil outranks that of the Sunday, whereas normally Vigils cannot be observed on a Sunday.

Wisdomtide, or Sapientiatide, is famous for the “O Antiphons” which are sung every evening at Vespers 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.

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 17th) 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 always given the privilege of intoning the antiphon *Radix Jesse*, “O Root of Jesse.” Please join us tonight for solemn Vespers and make the most of the high point of Advent!

Winter is here: your help is appreciated!

During the winter months, when there is snow on the ground, the assistance of gentlemen of the parish in removing snow and spreading salt when they come for Mass (a bit early if possible), including on weekdays, is greatly appreciated. Thank you for understanding that it may not always be possible for us to have the church opened as early as usual if there is a lot of snow to clear.

In order to help keep the church clean, especially when there is snow and salt outside, please make sure to use the winter doormats which are provided at both entrances to the church (parents, please remind your children). This is a great courtesy to those who clean the church, as well as being a sign of respect for God’s house.

We welcome you today the Oratory Parish of 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 monthly social hour. If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at the 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, 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 5 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. Please hold all conversations 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.

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.

Christmas Serving Schedule

Servers or their parents are kindly asked to contact Canon to let him know whether they can serve at Prime on December 24th and which Christmas Mass they plan to attend. Thank you for helping us make sure we have enough servers for these ceremonies!

Advent Food Drive

This Advent, the Oratory is collecting items for the food bank run by the Daughters of Charity of the Precious Blood here in Bridgeport. The items being collected are: non-expired canned goods, dry foods and grooming items (no perishable items or items requiring freezing or refrigeration). Please drop off your items (in a disposable carrier bag if possible) in the back entrance to church. Thank you for your charity to those in need!

SOLEMN CHORAL VESPERS & BENEDICTION Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m.

The last week of Advent, dedicated to the famous "O Antiphons" which are used at Vespers, is sometimes known as *Wisdomtide* (the first antiphon of the series is *O Sapientia*, "O Wisdom"). Please join us this evening for Solemn Vespers & Benediction, with beautiful chant and polyphony by our choir.

In keeping with the mediæval Catholic custom of lightening the Advent penance to enjoy the season of Wisdomtide with special festivities, there will be a social afterwards in the church hall. Please sign up to bring an item to share. Suggested treats include: mince pies & brandy butter; sugar plums; traditional plum pudding; wassail or mulled wine...



December 18th 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent