



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

Abbé Luke Ball
Clerical Oblate

Dr. Samuel Schmitt
Director of Sacred Music & Organist
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Mrs. Laurie Furey
Office Manager
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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: Additional 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 2nd

PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo
10:15 a.m. - Colleen O'Hare
requested by Larry & JoEllen Pline

Monday, February 3rd

Saint Blaise

7:45 a.m. - Zelfa Ciardiello
requested by Mr. & Mrs. Eric J. Ciardiello

Tuesday, February 4th

Saint Andrew Corsini

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Virginia Lee O'Brien
requested by Grace Monks

Wednesday, February 5th

Saint Agatha

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Paul Dunne
requested by Raymond Dunne

Thursday, February 6th

Votive Mass of Jesus, Eternal High Priest

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Joseph Adam, Jr.
requested by Marian Adam

Friday, February 7th

Saint Romuald

7:45 a.m. - Monsignor Gilles Wach
Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart
6:00 p.m. - Timothy Widmer
requested by Annmarie Widmer

Saturday, February 8th

Saint John of Matha

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Aleksandra Szeloch
requested by Erva Szeloch

Sunday, February 9th

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:30 a.m. - ✠ Robert Slossar, Sr.
requested by Robert Slossar, Jr.
10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo



Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 2nd

PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY {Candlemas}
Blessing of Candles before High Mass at 10:15 a.m.
Monthly coffee hour downstairs after High Mass
** Solemn Choral Vespers at 6:00p.m. **

Monday, February 3rd

SAINT BLAISE'S DAY
Blessing of throats after Mass at 7:45 a.m.
Volunteers needed to help put away the Manger

Thursday, February 6th

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

Friday, February 7th

FIRST FRIDAY
Additional Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Sacred Heart devotions & Benediction

Saturday, February 8th

First Holy Communion Catechism class at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 9th

No Vespers or Benediction

Tuesday, February 11th

Adult Theology class at 7:00 p.m. in church hall
"The Sixth & Ninth Commandments"

Thursday, February 13th

Requiem High Mass for Abbé Outtier at 6:00 p.m.
(in place of usual Holy Hour)

Sunday, February 13th

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY
Collection of last year's palms for making ashes

Saturday, March 1st

Annual bowling outing for the altar boys and their fathers after First Saturday Mass & devotions

Sunday, March 2nd to Tuesday March 4th

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION
Annual solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Blessing of Sacramentals

If you have any items to be blessed, you can drop them off in the work sacristy (on the correct table!) and then pick them up the following Sunday.

EXPLANATION OF THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

January 30th marked the 150th anniversary of the death of the Benedictine abbot Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875), the intrepid defender of the rights of the Holy See, restorer of monastic life after the devastation of the French Revolution, and commentator on the mysteries of the sacred liturgy. The excerpt below is taken from the Christmas volume of his masterpiece THE LITURGICAL YEAR.

After Terce follows the Blessing of the Candles, which is one of the three principal ones observed by the Church during the year; the other two are the Blessing of the Ashes, and the Blessing of the Palms. The signification of this ceremony bears so essential a connection with the mystery of our Lady's Purification, that if Septuagesima, Sexagesima, or Quinquagesima Sunday fall on the 2nd of February, the Feast is deferred to tomorrow; but the Blessing of the Candles, and the Procession, which follows it, always take place on this precise day.

In order to give uniformity to the three great Blessings of the year, the Church prescribes for that of the Candles the same colour for the vestments of the sacred Ministers, as is used in the two other Blessings of the Ashes and Palms – namely, purple. Thus this solemn function, which is inseparable from the day on which our Lady's Purification took place, may be gone through every year on the 2nd of February, without changing the colour prescribed by the three Sundays just mentioned. [...]

The mystery of today's ceremony of the blessing of candles has frequently been explained by liturgists, dating from the seventh century. According to St. Ivo of Chartres, the wax which is formed from the juice of flowers by the bee (which has always been considered as the emblem of virginity) signifies the virginal flesh of the Divine Infant, who diminished not, either by his conception or his birth, the spotless purity of his Blessed Mother. The same holy Bishop would have us see, in the flame of our Candle, a symbol of Jesus, who came to enlighten our darkness. St. Anselm Archbishop of Canterbury, speaking on the same mystery, bids us consider three things in the blest Candle: the Wax, the Wick, and the Flame. The Wax, he says, which is the production of the virginal bee, is the Flesh of our Lord; the Wick, which is within, is his Soul; the Flame, which burns on the top, is his Divinity.

Formerly, the faithful looked upon it as an honor to be permitted to bring their wax tapers to the Church, on this Feast of the Purification, that they might be blessed together with those, which were to be borne in the procession by the Priests and sacred Ministers; and the same custom is still observed in some congregations. It would be well if Pastors were to encourage this practice, retaining it where it exists, or establishing it where it is not known. There has been such a systematic effort made to destroy, or, at least, to impoverish the exterior rites and practices of religion, that we find, throughout the world, thousands of Christians who have been insensibly made strangers to those admirable sentiments of faith, which the Church alone, in her Liturgy, can give to the body of the faithful. Thus, we shall be telling many what they have never heard before, when we inform them, that the Church blesses the candles today, not only to be carried in the Procession, which forms part of the ceremony, but, also, for the use of the faithful, inasmuch as they draw, upon such as use them with respect, whether on sea or on land (as the Church says in the prayer) special blessings from heaven. These blest candles ought, also, to be lit near the bed of the dying Christian, as a symbol of the immortality merited for us by Christ, and of the protection of our Blessed Lady.

“ONE IN CHRIST” - 2025 Bishop's Appeal

The Bishop's Appeal for 2025 is now underway. Envelopes will be sent to you at home and will also soon be available in church. Your participation helps our parish! Please make sure to turn in the envelope in the collection basket or in one of the candle donation boxes or drop it off at the rectory (do not mail directly to the diocese).

For more information: www.2025bishopsappeal.org



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 coffee hour 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.

SOLEMN CHORAL VESPERS

Candlemas – Sunday, February 2nd

Please join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for Solemn Choral Vespers of the feast of the Purification of Our Lady, featuring sacred music by Renaissance masters Byrd, Victoria and Anerio. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SEWING PROJECTS

If anyone is able to help with occasional light sewing (repairs), please contact the church office.

We are also hoping this year to have some specially fitted veils made for all the altar crosses in time for Passiontide. Please let us know if you can help with these projects!

CANDLEMAS

Sunday, February 2nd Procession & High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

If you have any personal candles for blessing, please bring them to the priest's sacristy no later than 9:45 a.m. (must be marked with your name).



February 2nd 2025

Candlemas