

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and basking in the summer warmth of God's glory!

Being pastor is sometimes a matter of enjoying routine parish life and sometimes we find ourselves leading big projects. This is just such a time as the English speaking church around the world prepares to welcome a new language for our liturgy on the first Sunday of Advent (11/27/2011) and as we here at St. Bridget begin to devote special attention to how we celebrate Eucharist and the other sacraments.

The Liturgy Committee, the Parish Council and the pastoral staff are devoting themselves to providing parish liturgies saturated with the Real Presence of Christ. We are grateful to the many parishioners who have served wonderfully and well for a long time, creating just such liturgical moments. We are also aware that the demands of our weekend Mass schedule, the changes in people's commitment levels and normal life transitions have caused the number of liturgical ministers to dwindle. This has resulted in too few ministers, in ministers not as well prepared as well as they would like to be and as the liturgy requires, and in ministers occasionally ignoring our dress code.

In coming weeks the Liturgy Committee will sponsor a number of events designed to "lift our minds and heart to God" by examining how we go about liturgy in our parish. The first will concentrate on how Christ

is really present to us in four distinct ways when we celebrate the Eucharist. It is intended for all adult and teen parishioners. The second is for liturgical ministers, and will go more deeply into their role in making Christ present during the Eucharist. Subsequent gatherings will then focus on the language changes.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin using a new version of the Mass which is more authentic to ancient Latin texts. The new texts use a slightly more formal language to address God. The goal is to distinguish between every day conversation and the divine-human dialogue that occurs during Mass, to "lift our minds and hearts to God." It is my sincere hope that in focusing on the gift of Christ really present you will find the language changes both appropriate and sensible.

I see both of these efforts as exciting opportunities for the spiritual renewal of our beloved parish. To that end I ask you to be part of workshops here in the parish and to begin now by joining the leadership in prayer for openness to the Holy Spirit in these times. Look for information in the bulletin and the Bridge as well as on-line as we hope to draw closer to Christ and enrich our worship! Christ Himself makes all things possible so to Him we offer our thanks and prayers.



A Message from Monsignor Carr

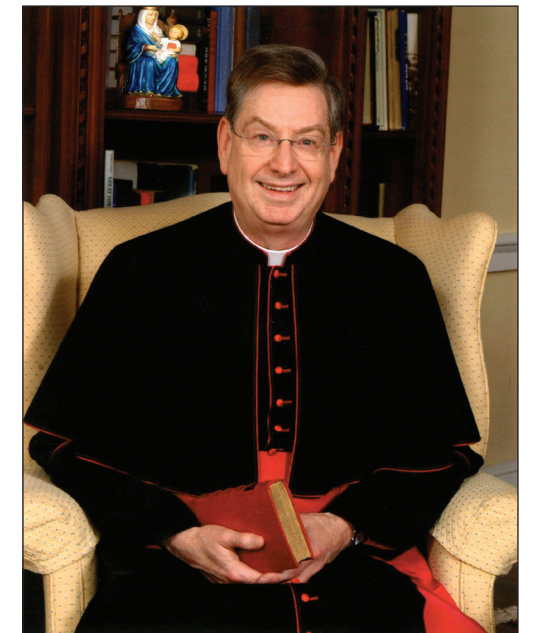
Dear Parishioners,

July is a time of transition for us in the rectory. Father Stanfill, after a wonderful year has gone to be Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Richmond. Newly ordained Father Capuano arrived to take his place. Bishop Madera, after living with us since February and helping Bishop DiLorenzo with ministry to Hispanics has returned to his religious order in California. Father Boehling, diocesan Vicar for Vocations and I are still here!

The summer and fall will be a time of transition for the parish as well. Coming off a very successful parish stewardship appeal and an excellent attempt at refining our census we now come to the liturgical life of the parish. I call your attention to more information in this issue of The Bridge.

My brother priests, deacons and I wish you a very happy summer and God's good gift of re-creation.

Sincerely in Christ,



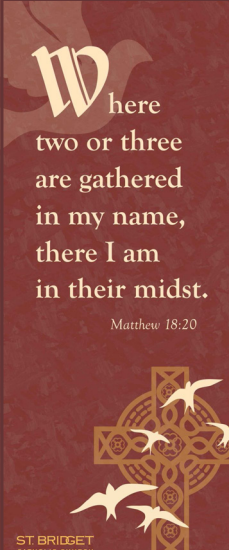
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Please look to the back page for a special message on celebrating the Eucharist.



St. Brigid



Save the Date

"Where two or three are gathered..."

Transforming the Masses at St. Bridget and Renewing Our Devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus Christ

A Gathering For All Adult And Teen Parishioners

9-10-11

A day of learning and growing

Registration and coffee, 8:30am  
Workshop 9am-3pm with lunch included  
RSVP will be necessary for us to plan and prepare for lunch (\$ donations only)

Watch for more information, but for now Save The Date!

**Contact Us!**

Dial 282.9511,  
then use 3-digit extensions or the  
direct line when provided

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**ST. BRIDGET**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Pastor's Office**

Dear Parishioners,

Every year at this time, I always like to think back on the many wonderful milestones our Catholic faith bestows upon us. The winter months that follow Christmas are sublime and still, but soon the Lenten weeks are upon us. Finally, the gift of Easter fills the spring, and the forty days that follow until we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord fill us here in Richmond with the optimism that warm weather and azalea blossoms always bring.

Indeed, summer is the perfect time to relax and reflect. But at St. Bridget Church, we pause only briefly. For here in a community committed to spiritual discovery, religious education and rejoicing in the Real Presence of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, every season offers the warm embrace of rich and traditional Catholic worship and continuous opportunities to serve "the least of these."

**St. Bridget's Commitment To Serve You**

The work and dedication of our many regular, active members make St. Bridget Church the warm and welcoming spiritual community we have come to know and love. And lest we forget, all members of St. Bridget Parish enjoy numerous benefits not found everywhere.

We have the good fortune to attend Mass in a beautiful church built in the traditional American Gothic Revival architectural style. Our congregation also adheres closely to the strictures of the Roman Missal and the spirit of the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II). We have a rich history of providing youth ministry, adult education and Christian Formation for all who seek it.

At the same time, St. Bridget has always looked to the future by observing a long tradition of ministering to the less fortunate and reaching out to the greater community. Saint Bridget and the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart share a relationship with the Parish of Carissade in Haiti. Active St. Bridget parishioners may also be certified to serve as sponsors for sacraments celebrated in other parishes. We offer an excellent school of religion for Catholic children attending both public and private schools in the area. Parish children also receive special tuition rates at our award-winning K-8 parish school.

Most of all, St. Bridget parishioners enjoy the privilege of membership in a large, devoted and extended parish family. In fact, many of our parishioners have called St. Bridget home over several generations. Some families have even been lucky enough to receive the blessings of many of the seven Catholic Sacraments—Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick—as they have made their spiritual life journey with us. Others who worship among us moved away from the parish after growing up here, only to return years later as adult parishioners with children of their own.

**Serving St. Bridget In Return**

Of course, a parish that offers as many benefits and opportunities as ours requires us,

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Summary of May 2011 Church Operating Fund Revenue & Expense Report**

**Revenue/Expenditure Comparison**

For the period May 2011, revenue exceeded expenditures by \$30,246. For the fiscal year to date, revenue exceeded expenditures by \$156,907. The parish continued to support our ministries, in addition to paying for the ongoing maintenance and utility costs.

**Offertory**

The weekly offertory for May 2011 averaged \$32,751 (compared to an average weekly collection of \$37,232 in April). Weekly offertory for May 2010 averaged \$22,867 and weekly offertory for May 2009 averaged \$25,860 and for May 2008 the average was \$23,955.

**Monthly and Year to Date Comparisons**

The total monthly offertory for May 2011 was \$163,756 compared to the total monthly offertory for May 2010 of \$114,333 and a total offertory of \$129,298 in 2009. The total year to date offertory for this fiscal year is \$1,562,935 (compared to a total year to date offertory of \$1,532,469 for the 2009-10 fiscal year and \$1,506,596 for the 2008-09 fiscal year).

**Holy Day Collections**

Holy Day Collections for the fiscal year to date total \$16,460 (compared to \$8,801 for the 2009-10 fiscal year).

**Memorials**

Memorial donations were received in memory of George Bragdon, Victor Dorr, Virginia Lee Bland Freeman, and Ethel Huff.

**Human Concerns**

We thank you for continuing to support the mission of Saint Bridget Catholic Church. \$2,420 was given to those in need of assistance in our community.

**E-Giving**

E-Giving offertory contributions in May totaled \$33,647 (compared to \$17,688 in e-giving donations in May 2010 and \$8,981 in May 2009). More people are taking advantage of e-giving: the total amount of e-giving including offertory donations, Building Fund contributions, and all other collections for May was \$38,064.

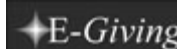
**E-Giving allows you to...** Conveniently use debit card, credit card or electronic funds transfer; to make a contribution to the various funds and special collections; and to access transaction history for record keeping requirements. Remember, you the "Contributor" exclusively control your activity. Please contact Kimberly Lapkin at 525.7888 or [kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org) with any questions about this E-Giving service.

**E-Giving: An easy & secure way to contribute your offerings to God**

**Step 1**

Go to [www.saintbridgetchurch.org](http://www.saintbridgetchurch.org)

**Step 2**

Click the link: 

**Step 3**

Follow the easy directions to set-up recurring or one-time donations

**Thank you for your gift of Stewardship**

Kimberly Lapkin, *Director of Stewardship*  
[kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org)

May 2011 Church Operating Fund Revenue and Expense Report

Revenue	May 2011	Year to Date
Parishioner Offertory Contributions & Cash Plate	\$ 130,109	\$ 1,291,276
E-Giving Offertory Contributions	33,647	271,659
Human Concerns Contributions	4,075	50,800
Haiti Contributions + Sponsor a Child	3,369	60,788
2nd Collections—Catholic Home Missions Appeal	1,496	22,495
Holy Day Collection	169	16,460
Wedding Fees	400	8,000
Religious Education Fees	365	51,314
Youth Mission Trip—Catholic Heart Work Camp	4,448	53,128
Votive Candle Offerings	192	3,291
Hospitality Special Revenue	2,500	6,626
Bequests & Memorials—Helen Anthony bequest of \$100,000 received Dec 2010	470	112,225
Special Donations & Catholic Virginian & Other Revenue	5,819	29,102
Flower Memorials and Donations	0	6,197
Campus Ministry Revenue & Diocesan Subsidy	1,567	16,900
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(178)	21,246
Dividends & Interest	0	3,410
Endowment Fund Earnings Transfer	0	15,795
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 188,448</b>	<b>\$ 2,040,712</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative Costs & Employee Benefits	\$ 47,743	\$ 492,150
Diocesan & Regional Assessments	14,807	157,496
Human Concerns/Social Ministry	2,705	72,138
Capital Reserve Fund Transfer	0	75,000
Development	0	1,648
Physical Plant Maintenance, Salaries, Utilities	15,934	215,007
Liturgy Ministries & Costs	15,040	176,895
Clergy/Religious Salaries & Benefits	11,439	123,396
Religious Education & Youth Ministry	9,335	121,607
Rectory Household Costs (Includes costs for four Priests in residence at the Rectory and all visiting Priests as well as Rectory living expenses, maintenance, household salaries and utilities.)	8,068	81,602
2nd Collections/Donations Disbursed	4,865	83,283
Membership/Hospitality	9,162	63,726
Youth Mission Trip—Catholic Heart Work Camp	838	47,889
Campus Ministry	300	5,212
Catholic Virginian	1,716	20,506
Parish School Subsidy	16,250	146,250
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 158,202</b>	<b>\$ 1,883,805</b>

in turn, to accept the responsibility to practice our faith as *active* members. To grow as a parish family in our Catholic mission, St. Bridget relies on the continuous spiritual, personal and financial generosity of every one of us. We are fortunate to have many dedicated parishioners in our midst who contribute to the St. Bridget community in countless ways. They set a standard for how to meet—and even exceed—the expectations God has for us as we participate in the life of Christ on Earth.

This year, to identify all our dedicated members, as well as to assess our staffing needs, focus our spending, and develop our ongoing budget and stewardship goals, St. Bridget conducted a re-registration of parish members. From its earliest years, St. Bridget Church has relied on periodic census initiatives to pinpoint the number of members who take a regular, active role in the life of our parish community.

In Fall 2010, St. Bridget's launched our re-registration project by mailing and emailing special forms to **all 2,691 households listed in the parish database**. We also provided forms during all liturgies on two Sundays last November. Finally, we created a convenient "census station" in the church commons to allow parishioners to submit information at any time during a six-week period last fall.

Finally, at its May 18, 2011 meeting, the parish council adopted an official parish census count of **2,200 "active" parish households**.

To reach that figure, the council first recognized the **1,500 parish households** that had returned census forms to St. Bridget by that date. We then designated **700 additional households** active in the parish even though we received no forms from them. To be considered "active," those 700 households met at least one of the following key criteria: They had updated their household information since January 2008; made at least one financial contribution to the parish in 2010 or 2011; pledged to the parish's current Stewardship Campaign; or reported having one or more children enrolled in St. Bridget School. We also considered "active" any homebound parishioners to whom Eucharist is regularly brought.

In order to target parish resources to our most active parishioners, St. Bridget decided to move the **500 remaining households** in our database to "inactive" status. These households will no longer receive parish mailings such as weekly offertory envelopes, *The Bridge*, and *The Catholic Virginian*.

Still, St. Bridget remains, at heart, a church where "all are welcome in this place" for Mass, Reconciliation and all other sacraments. And by sharing our census results with you, I hope to encourage your continued participation, spiritual presence and financial support for our unique parish community.

In that spirit, I would like to take this opportunity to urge all who might not have been counted in this year's census to **register now** with the parish and renew your commitment to the good work and deep faith we practice each day. To do so, please contact Frances Smith, 282-9511, ext 314, [fsmith@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:fsmith@saintbridgetchurch.org).

Please join us "on our way" as we continue the mission and tradition of St. Bridget Parish.

Sincerely in Christ,



**Reverend Monsignor William H. Carr, Pastor**

6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, Virginia

**Contact Us!**

**Dial 282.9511,  
then use 3-digit extensions.**

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*Parish Pastoral Council:*  
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*Building Committee:*  
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*Development Committee:*  
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741.5305; 426.5298

**Haiti Committee:** Paul Amrhein,  
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paul@saintbridgetchurch.org,  
525.7902

**Knights of Columbus:**  
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**Men's Catholic Bible Study:**  
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**Men's Apologetics Group:** Tim Cook,  
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**Micah Initiative/  
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**Parish Nurse Ministry:**  
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## Human Concerns Spotlight

Spotlight on Human Concerns' Ministry by Paul Amrhein—This month in the midst of this great recession and looming budget cuts I want to share with you two books from my summer reading list. These books are on my list not because I like light reading but because of what I see in the streets of Richmond and who I talk to on a daily basis in my work in the parish.

I moved to Richmond four years ago. I have noticed just as many parishioners have, the number of people begging in our streets. Over the last four years the numbers have grown exponentially, and they do not all look like beggars. In fact more and more are looking like you and I. There are some usual places occupied by the same people such as Three Chopt and Patterson. They seem to have their territory but new comers seem unaware as when I witnessed an argument break out among them on this corner one day about whose turn it was to occupy the intersection. But big box parking lots and many other intersections have become places for the modern version of brother can you spare a dime. As an FYI, inflation has that dime up to a ten dollar bill. Many I have talked to about this subject have asked what to do when they encounter someone begging for money. Perhaps this book will help you answer that question for yourself. So the first book on my list is *The Fear of Beggars: Stewardship and Poverty in Christian Ethics* by Kelly S. Johnson.

(The following review is from a Christian bookstore.) She is involved in the provocative *Ekklesia Project* and has pondered deeply not only the obvious question—should we give to beggars?—but the broader ethical issues of stewardship, property rights, economics and Christian social ethics. Christine Pohl (herself author of the brilliant *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*) writes “One does not necessarily expect a book on begging and reimagining property relations to sing with theological and historical insight, but Kelly Johnson’s book does just that. Her account is fascinating and beautifully written...” From Saint Francis’ “economic unilateral disarmament” to the medieval discussions of the poor, to good teaching about Wesley, to the 20th century Catholic Worker writings of Peter Maurin, this is lively scholarship that matters.

Every news cast these days is full of economic indicators and what one or another economist says. Having a degree in economics I may find it all interesting but it lacks a faith perspective.

I find things get out of alignment when I do not bring in the voice of the gospel to such a far ranging topic with so many implications for the life of our community and indeed the planet. I have read *Simple Living Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective*; edited by Michael Schut and I look forward to reading *Money & Faith: The Search for Enough* edited by Michael Schut (Morehouse Publishing). This is the third in a series edited by Mr. Schut (the other is *Food & Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread*). For those who cannot or will not put two words such as faith and economics together you may not want to read any of these books. For those who take up the challenge you will note while picking up any of these three books how many thoughtful theologians are indeed connecting these two words.

(The following review is from a Christian bookstore.) From authors such as Wendell Berry to Henri Nouwen, Bill McKibben to Frances Moore Lappe, these thoughtful short excerpts from books, essays and sermons are brought together to offer an alternative to the North American way of not seriously relating faith and finances, Christian principles and economics, spirituality and commerce, the so-called sacred and the secular. That is, they help us bring together what is often sequestered. Since they are mostly shorter pieces, they are perfect to dip in to, serendipitously, even, or to study, carefully. This brand new one, *Money & Faith*, especially, is witty and insightful. Walter Brueggemann’s classic sermon “The Liturgy of Abundance, the Myth of Scarcity” is here (and worth the price of the book, since you will want to re-read it regularly) as is the useful tool on writing your own money autobiography created by the *Ministry of Money*. The late Christian educator, spunky Maria Harris, is represented with a piece on the Year of Jubilee and Wayne Muller, author of *Sabbath*, has an excerpt. It is a mature, wise, and challenging collection, useful and good.

*“The challenge of this pastoral letter is not merely to think differently, but also to act differently. A renewal of economic life depends on the conscious choices and commitments of individual believers who practice their faith in the world. This letter calls us to conversion and common action, to new forms of stewardship, service, and citizenship.”*

A Pastoral Message of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on the Tenth Anniversary of the Economic Pastoral, November, 1995

## Sacraments

### Baptisms

Declan Gerard Clevenger  
Mary Ellen Cowgill  
Meadow Grace Dowdy  
Casey Brin Flannery  
Luke Odom Giroux  
Logan Virginia Lombard  
Mary Ryland Luck

### Weddings

Mark Andrew Bernardin and Austin Snaman  
Sara Schecter and Brian Hayes

### Deaths

Richard Pearson  
Ida Stebbing

## Parish Announcements

### Help Wanted

**Catholic Charities has a need for a volunteer to assist us with serving food pantry clients on Wednesdays from 9a.m. to Noon, so if you have any parishioners express an interest in volunteering please feel free to have them contact me should they wish to pursue our Food Pantry Assistant opportunity. Call Catholic Charities at 545-5925 to volunteer.**

**For Prayer Services for the Elderly at Westport: A number of Catholics at the Westport health care facility at 7300 Forest Avenue are being served by a team of St. Bridget parishioners but can use your help. The idea is to have a communion service each Sunday at 2:30. With enough people you would only be helping at one prayer service a month. If interested contact Paul Amrhein paul@saintbridgetchurch.org or 525-7902**

### Save The Date!

Please join us on Saturday evening, September 24<sup>th</sup>, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual MANJE Dinner Party to celebrate our parish’s sponsorship of students attending St. Paul School in Carissade, Haiti. More information will be printed in future Bridge and Bulletin publications. Also, please visit our website, [www.thehaiticommitee.com](http://www.thehaiticommitee.com), to learn more about this important St. Bridget/Cathedral of the Sacred Heart ministry.

## Help Us Communicate!

Contact the Communications Office ([communications@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:communications@saintbridgetchurch.org), 525.7899).

### Bulletin

Send your announcement via e-mail or fax (285.7227) by Noon, two Wednesdays prior to desired bulletin publication.

### Bridge

Send your news by Noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to desired publication month.

### E-News

Send your news by Noon on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to desired publication month.

### Website

Send your news noted to post in the appropriate section of the website.