



## THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT BRIDGET

Saint Bridget Campus  
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Minneapolis, MN 55412

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### Blindness

When my niece was about six years old, she had grown accustomed to being the only child in the midst of many adults; overhearing conversations, though not always understanding the words being spoken. This became very evident one day when someone suggested taking some family pictures. That sweet, cherub-faced little girl (now 20) said in a mocking, sarcastic tone, "...oh, let us PERISH the memories!" While she thought she was so clever, she didn't realized the word was actually, "cherish." We adults, much to her chagrin, have never let her forget that little mix-up, innocent though it was.

In similar fashion, many of us cruise through prayers or songs, completely ignoring the actual words being recited, as if the only purpose to start... is to finish. We allow our minds to wander until the "task" at hand is over. Understanding that the language used in many of the "old standards" is not language you would typically hear spoken aloud today, it is so important that we are intentional about the words we speak, giving weight and focus to each of them.

For example, here's a phrase we could all sing with our eyes closed (pun intended) that stems directly from today's Gospel reading:

"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved the wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see."

You don't have to dig out the dictionary to understand the words in this passage, but so often the deep sense of love, salvation and overall miraculous nature are glossed over. The man was BLIND! Jesus spat on some dirt, rubbed it on his eyes, and, after washing his face, he could see! Can you imagine if that was any of us – how utterly dumbfounded and joy-filled we would be!

Do not, however, feel bad if you miss the miraculous in the midst of the mundane; I am just as guilty. The Pharisees who surrounded the (formerly) blind man, though astonished, still questioned the validity of the work, because Jesus performed the miracle on the Sabbath (thus breaking Jewish laws). Upon asking him again how Jesus opened his eyes, the blind man says, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again?" Still, this did not persuade the Pharisees, so they went to the parents of the blind man who reiterated that, in fact, their son was born blind. However, to avoid any persecution, they pushed any further answers back to their son.



*Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind*

*John 9*

The Pharisees were presented with a conflict of circumstances: Jesus was said to have healed the sight of this man... but He did so on the Sabbath; therefore, how could Jesus, lawfully, be the Messiah, the Christ? Clearly he broke the rules the Pharisees had been so determined to follow. The glory of this miracle must go to God, not to this "Jesus," an obvious "sinner." This must be blasphemy... or was it? The whole situation was a bit of a kerfuffle. So, to resolve the confusion, they simply threw the blind man out.

In the first reading, we hear the story of the Lord telling Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel. God gave Samuel clear instructions: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature... not as man sees does God see." And from the sons of Jesse, Samuel anoints David, the youngest and the most seemingly inadequate candidate. Imagine the surprise of the brothers or father -- our human condition prevents us from seeing the truths that God sees, a different kind of blindness.

*Lord, may we see ourselves and each other as You see us, open to the gifts of the Spirit and for the sharing of the saving news of Jesus' death and resurrection to all we meet.*

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# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

*(All are Masses, unless otherwise noted.)*

Monday, March 27, St. Bridget (*Word-Communion Service*)  
 + 8:00 AM Ted Willard (Jill Rice)  
 Tuesday, March 28, St. Austin  
 8:00 AM People of the Parish  
 Wednesday, March 29, St. Bridget  
 + 8:00 AM Kay Ennen (Family)  
 Thursday, March 30, St. Austin  
 + Fr. Cyprian Mercieca, TOR (Alice Wortman)  
 Friday, March 31, St. Bridget  
 8:00 AM Kenneth Szabla (Friend)  
 Weekend Liturgies  
 Saturday, April 1, St. Austin  
 + 4:30 PM Patricia Witte (LeRoy Loehlein)  
 Sunday, April 2, St. Bridget  
 + 9:30 AM Anna Criscitelli (Family)

### Deacon Couple

Deacon Rich Heineman..... richh@stbridgetnorthside.com  
 Jill Heineman..... jillh@stbridgetnorthside.com

### Associate Pastor

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### Pastoral Minister

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### Director of Youth Ministry

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### Liturgy

Saturday Vigil—St. Austin Campus..... 4:30 PM  
 Sunday—St. Bridget Campus .....9:30 AM  
 Monday, Wednesday, & Friday  
 St. Bridget Campus.....8:00 AM  
 Tuesday & Thursday—St. Austin Campus .....8:00 AM

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays St. Austin Campus.....3:45-4:10 PM  
 (Doors of the Church open at 3:45 PM)

Seasonal Communal Services .....Advent and Lent

### Sacrament of Baptism, Marriage and Sick

Please call the Parish Office.

### Parish Membership

The Parish Community of St. Bridget welcomes your active membership. If you are new to the area or looking for a place to nurture and celebrate your faith, please call the Parish Office.

Collection for March 19.....\$3,786.05

### READINGS FOR April 2, 2017

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14  
 Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11  
 Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 1, 4:30 PM, St. Austin

Altar Servers: Anne Moen  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Stephen Schmelz, Judy Neiss, Kathy Purdes  
 Usher/Greeter: Bonnie Moore, Joe Mullery, Betty Mysliwicz, Alice Wortman

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 AM, St. Bridget

Altar Servers: Alice Wortman  
 Lector: Terry Hale  
 Sacristan: Alice Wortman  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Sr. Louise Bauer, Diane Liemandt-Reimann, Marie Lorbiecki, Mary Majkozak, Tim Peiffer  
 Ushers & Greeters: Bernice Ashfeld, Marlene Longpre, Rick Mysliwicz, Ron Willis

### CHURCH CALENDAR

Mon. Mar. 27	Faithfully Fit	10:00AM	St. B
	Lenten Book Study	6:30PM	St. B
Tues. Mar. 28	Arts & Crafts	9:00AM & 6:00PM	St. A
Wed. Mar. 29	Faith Formation & Confirmation Class	6:30 - 7:45 PM	OLV
Thur. Mar. 30	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM	St. A
Fri. Mar. 31	Soup Supper Faith Form Hosting	5:30PM	St. B
	Stations of the Cross	7:00PM	St. B
Sat. Apr. 1	Parish Lenten Retreat Day	1:00 - 4:20PM	St. A
	Reconciliation	3:45PM	St. A
	Mass	4:30PM	St. A
	First Weekend Anointing	After Mass	
Sun. Apr. 2	Mass	4:30PM	St. B
	First Weekend Anointing	After Mass	



**IN YOUR KINDNESS** Please pray for the sick of our parish:

**Jean Eidem, Curt Johnson, Dianne Mulcare, Shirley Peterson, Rita Casserly, Jerry Gooley, Sam Aubart, Mark Johnson, Francis Japs, Dorothy Kroll, Roger Weber, and Carl Terwey.** In your charity, remember the soul of **Frances Weber**, aunt of **Diane Weber**, who died last week. May her soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.



**EASTER FLOWERS:** Many of you have noticed the envelope in your packet marked Easter flowers, your generous gift helps defray the cost of the flowers used to decorate both campuses'. On the back of the Easter flower envelope, there are spaces for memorials to loved ones. We will remember them in a special way in Easter.



**MINNESOTA MARCH FOOD SHARE:** Collection will be the weekends of March 25/26 and April 1/2. This is an opportunity to contribute money and/or food to help restock food shelves throughout the city. This week, you will find an envelope marked for Food Share in the bulletin. Place cash or check (made out to St. Bridget with Food Share marked in memo) the envelopes can be put in with the regular collection basket.

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This Lent, allow Jesus to be the Light that shines amidst your darkest of shadows; do not try to hide any embarrassments, any wrong-doings, or any oversight, because the Lord sees them all. Instead, admit to these human faults and allow the Spirit to guide you and help change those sinful ways, because, as we hear in the second reading, “everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a

light” (Ephesians 5:13-14).

God makes all things new – He makes our mess into our message; He takes the meekest of us (the young David, the blind beggar, the glossy-eyed church-goer) and raises us to great esteem in ways we never thought possible. God has chosen each of us, specifically. May we be courageous enough to step into the light and follow Him.

*~Heather Johnson, Director of Worship*

**PARISH MISSION PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus, as we prepare for our parish’s special time of mission, open the hearts and minds of each one of us so that we might receive your word with eager joy. Let this parish and its members cultivate an environment of welcome and hospitality, opening our doors to all who are in need of hearing the Word of God.*

*Bless the missionaries who will break open Your word for us with their preaching. May they be guided by the Spirit, and may their words penetrate the hardest of hearts.*

*Help us to welcome into our parish community all of those who feel distant from Your loving care. Show us how to be a reflection of Your love to all we meet and to offer support to those who are in despair. Remind each of us that we are CHOSEN for a specific purpose and that we each have gifts to offer to bring about Your glorious kingdom.*

*We ask this of You, confident that You are our Savior, and that You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

**UPDATE ON FR. ANTHONY, TOR.....**As you read in the bulletin a few weeks ago, March 15th marks one year since the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania brought charges against Fr. Anthony and two of his Franciscan brothers, resulting in their removal from ministry. It has been a long twelve months, with very little development in terms of bringing anything to resolution. However, there may be some movement in the months ahead. The attorneys representing the friars have until April 15th to file any pre-trial motions and, on April 27th the friars will appear in court in Blair County for oral arguments. These proceedings could bring an end to the friars' ordeal, or they could result in a trial date. Naturally, the friars are hoping and praying it will be the former. In the meantime, Fr. Anthony continues to live in the Minneapolis area and is likewise striving to remain hopeful. He is grateful for the notes and cards that he receives, assuring him that he continues to be remembered in your thoughts and prayers. When these legal issues are resolved and he is restored to his priestly ministry, he will receive an assignment within his Franciscan community. But before he heads east, he looks forward to returning to St. Bridget's for an opportunity to celebrate Mass and say good-bye and thank you to all of us.

*~Gerri Hare and Bob Majkozak, Trustees*



**Join St. Anthony of Padua Secular Franciscans on a Journey in Lent**

How to Deepen Your Life in Christ after the Sacraments

**What to Do When You Feel**

- spiritually stuck, lost or alone
- emotionally overwhelmed, anxious or depressed

We will focus on Franciscan solutions

- how science affirms these ancient practices
- through personal and communal prayer

You are cordially invited to attend a free retreat at the Church of St. Austin (Brennan Hall) on Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. This event is open to anyone wishing to attend (you need not be Franciscan).

**DRUMMING PRAYER TO BE SAVED FOR LATER** Unfortunately, we won't be able to showcase Native American-inspired drumming prayer at our COME TOGETHER ecumenical prayer service here at St. Bridget's campus on April 9th, 4 to 5:30 pm. The silver-lining of this change is that we can introduce Taizé sung prayer -- which participants will likely find to be more conducive to Lent. Check out the Taize movement here: [www.taize.fr/en](http://www.taize.fr/en). And google "Taize song and prayer" for a taste for the easy-to-sing music.

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

Speaking of Thank Yous, I would like to thank the parishioners who organized a birthday celebration for me after the Saturday evening Mass on March 4<sup>th</sup>. I don't come from a birthday-celebrating family, and so it was a very special treat for me. I also want to thank parishioners for the many birthday cards and gifts I received. I'm still making my way through them. I feel blessed. Especially for the greatest of all gifts: my parish assignment here.

*~ Fr. Paul*

**ON APRIL 1ST** there will be a **Lifeline Mass and Program** on forming a Catholic conscience, featuring Bishop Andrew Cozzens. We'll be carpooling to the NET Center, leaving St. Bridget's at 5pm and returning at 10pm. *Dinner will be provided. Contact Alex by March 30th to attend.*



**SPRING DAY TRIP** is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, to the Bloomington Art Center to see the musical theatrical performance "The Secret Garden." The bus will pick up at St. Austin Campus at 11:00AM, with lunch at Olive Garden at 11:30AM. The performance is at 2:00PM, and we'll return at 5:30PM. Total cost is \$70.00, which includes the bus, lunch, performance, and all gratuities. **Reservation and payment are due no later than April 7.** *~ Sister Gert.*

**(SB-SACCW)** Our next meeting will be **Monday, April 10** at Brennan Hall. We will start with the Rosary at **6:45 pm**, have a meeting where we'll discuss Spring Luncheon plans, and then have some fellowship and treats! Don't forget to turn in your membership dues! You can bring them to a meeting or put them in an envelope, label it SB-SACCW, and drop it in the collection basket at a Mass.

**FAITH FORMATION March 31st** at St. Bridget Parish, the students in Faith Formation Class will host the soup supper at 5:30PM, followed by the Stations of the Cross. On **April 7th** the Faith Formation students will lead the Stations at the Church of the Ascension at 6:30PM. Children have been assigned a station. Please encourage them to practice reading to you out loud. There will be only one practice for the two nights Thursday, March 30th at 6:30PM at St. Bridget.