

The *B*ridge



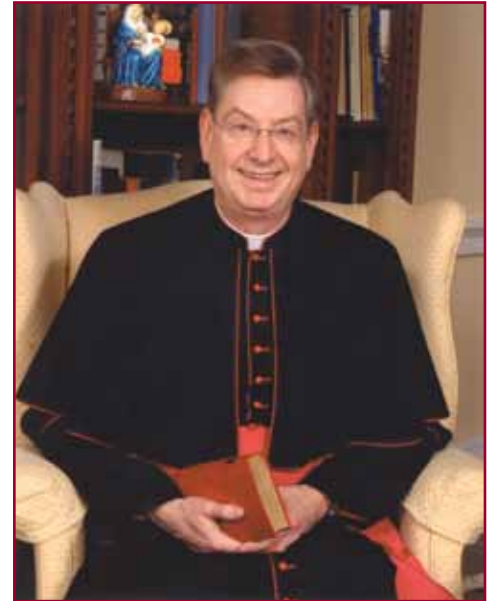
ST. BRIDGET
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parishioners,

The Church celebrates the Incarnation of Jesus Christ from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Lord's Baptism. During this festive time the Church's joy rings out as we celebrate the Real Presence of Christ among us. For the world, on Christmas night Christmas is over! For us, Christmas is barely twenty-four hours old and the celebration is just beginning.

The carols will sound their joy as we gather with the angels and shepherds to rejoice in innocence regained in the person of Our Savior and Our Lord. May the Blessings of this Advent and Christmas season bring you and your family peace and joy.

Father Brian and I pray for your blessings in the New Year.



ST. BRIDGET
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Mass Schedule

Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm in the church with Brass and Hymns, prelude music starts 60 minutes prior to Mass

6:00 pm in Mother Presentation Hall with Parish Boy Choir and Parish Girl Choir, prelude music starts 30 minutes prior to Mass

8:00 pm with Men's Ministry Choir, 10:30 pm with Adult Parish Choir, prelude music starts 30 minutes prior to Mass

Christmas Day

7:30 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am with Brass and Hymns, prelude music starts 30 minutes prior to Mass

Please note there is no 5:00 pm Mass Christmas Day

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

January 1

Saturday 5:30 pm; Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 8

Saturday 5:30 pm; Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

Feast of the Lord's Baptism, January 9

Daily Mass at 8am

At A Glance

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Saint Bridget
(Saint Brigid of Ireland, the Abbess of Kildare)

Inviting Christ's Radical Hospitality to Christmas Liturgies - *Observations from over the years and hopes for this coming season*

by Monsignor Carr

I'd like to invite you into an exercise in spiritual imagination with me. My hope is that, when we are finished with this activity, the Holy Spirit will have planted in us some ideas and intentions about how we, as the people of Saint Bridget, can bring a sense of Christ really present, to those who come as angels to our doors to celebrate the Birth of Christ. Or put more simply, how can we, the people of Saint Bridget, let them know that we are Christ's Body, here to welcome them to the celebration of His incarnation, He who is alive here and now?

Imagine with me that our Christmas liturgies are akin to hosting a huge party...at your house. You've gone to great trouble to plan, to decorate, to shop and cook, and to prepare yourselves to host your guests. You've invited many, and told them to bring their friends and family who are visiting. The more the merrier! You began to be hospitable long before your guests arrived, figuring out seating, where coats will be placed, the safety of children, the pacing of the food, and what to do about beverage choices. You know that your family will need to be present to greet everyone, to see to their needs and to watch out for the comfort and congeniality of your guests.

It's no different here at Saint Bridget as we prepare to celebrate Christmas liturgies. You who are reading this, the regular parishioners of Saint Bridget are the host of these liturgies...you are not the guests. You are the Body of Christ, throwing open the doors of Saint Bridget to welcome all who pass through on Christmas, to give thanks and praise to God for the gift of Jesus Christ. You know that we are working here to make sure that all who come to us experience Christ, really present here. There's no greater opportunity than Christmas litur-

gies for you, the assembly, to be Christ to all who gather.

So let's imagine what kinds of behaviors you can do to make it clear to our guests that you are Jesus' Body, here to welcome them into the Body and to His table. Some of the things you do in your own home are signs of hospitality here as well. When you're having a big party, you tuck your cars away, sometimes sev-

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eral streets away or in the garage, and you clear the driveway. You ask for permission for others to park in differing places than usual. And you make sure that you, as the host, have done all you can to make parking easy and access to your home helpful. True here at Saint Bridget as well. What would guests think if they came for Christmas Masses and could park close to church, because all the regulars parked further away, in the lesser known places, so that guests did not struggle? For sure it would be an extra-ordinary experience of being welcomed, before Mass begins.

Imagine what would happen if those who are guests for Mass find not just ushers at the doors greeting them, but regular parishioners, all showing them to seats, and standing until all the guests, the elderly, the pregnant and those with other frailties are

seated? Imagine no experience of coats tossed across entire rows, telling others they cannot sit, replaced instead with warm invitations to be seated, to enjoy the music, and to refer to the worship aids? Much like your home, which Saint Bridget parish is.

One of the things hosts often do is introduce their guests to one another, sharing common threads so they might feel a bond. Imagine Christmas liturgies where you introduce yourself to those you do not know while they are coming through the Commons, sharing a bit about yourself and your delight in their presence? Imagine being ready to help a mom with several children in their Christmas finery be seated or find the lost toy that rolled under the pew ahead. Imagine kind offers of help to parents of fussing children rather than cold stares of disapproval? How many times have you told a parent at your house that their child is “just fine!” - How hospitable to do that here as well.

There's a final imagination I have, and that is that Christ's Body will be very concerned for one another's safety and well-being. Practically, that means we will keep fire exits and fire lanes clear, that we will not sit in aisles and block the communion flow. It means we will not hoist our children on the pew backs where they can slip and hurt themselves or another. It means that ice and snow are cleared and those with mobility challenges are assisted. It means we lend an arm or some space to one who is fragile in our midst. Imagine, we have the grace and the ability to be Christ to others in all these ways. What Christmas liturgies, what liturgies in general, we can have if we choose to be Christ's Body to one another!

The assembly is the most influential mediator of Christ's real presence, simply because of your numbers. So imagine

(continued next page)

Christ's Radical Hospitality

(continued from page 2)

with me all the ways you might be Christ in outward ways to those who will join us for Christmas liturgies. Maybe some of these don't seem as if they will work. It's ok. Jesus challenged us to love others in the same way we want to be loved and in the same way he loved us. He welcomed strangers with open arms, hosted banquets with guests right off the streets, and told even the most outcast they were welcome. Imagine...we have the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to do the same with warmth, safety and honor. Christ...really present. We just have to figure out how!



Without Sunday We Cannot Live

A series providing information about the Roman Missal Third Edition that will be used at all Masses beginning November 27, 2011. Father Capuano will present background, basics and insights from his perspective as a parish priest. You are warmly welcome to attend. We will add a date in January for those who cannot attend these sessions, please look for information on that session in the Bulletin.

December 4: 10:10am;
repeat December 5 at 8:30am

December 11: 10:10am;
repeat December 12 at 8:30am



All Saints Day and All Souls Day

At the 9 am All Saints Day Mass Father Brian preached to the Assembly that included all the students from St. Bridget School. Father Brian brought his message to the children in a way that reached them – through stories about the Saints. He told the children about one of his favorite saints, Saint Philip Neri. Philip taught humility, but he taught it with humor and did not exempt himself from the lessons. The greater his reputation for holiness the sillier he became. As an act of humility for himself, he shaved off half of his beard.

He also told them the story of Saint Maximilian Kolbe who was imprisoned during WWII and sacrificed his life to spare another man's. Before this final sacrifice, Saint Maximilian resisted the despair and hatred all around him with his holiness and quiet leadership, inspiring other prisoners and giving them hope. Father Brian told the children All Saint's Day is a special day and to take this opportunity to learn about the Saints. Use it as a day to start looking at life with new lenses. He

stressed to the children (and the adults too) to put on a new pair of glasses and see life the way Jesus sees it, because it is awesome.

All Souls Day was marked the next day with Mass in the morning. A prayer service honoring all parishioners and their loved ones was held in the evening as well. The evening service was full of reverant music, candles and incense were burned and those parishioner and their loved ones who had passed away were remembered. Father Capuano led the Assembly in prayer and reflection to bring healing to those in attendance. Photographs of loved ones are on display in the Commons until the end of the month.



Concert of Sacred Music for Advent and In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sung by The Parish Adult Choir, Schola Cantorum, Parish Boy Choir and Parish Girl Choir and Men's Ministry Choir
Accompanied by Chris Martin, Organist and The Somerset String Quartet
Allen Bean, Director

**Saturday, December 3, 2011, 4:00 pm,
Reception following in Church Hall**

For more information please call the Parish Office 282.9511

Spotlight on Human Concerns' Ministry – This section will periodically highlight one of the ministries our parishioners support by their tithe of time, talent and treasure. Sometimes we will explain what they do and other times we will provide stories of our ministers in action. Our focus this month is on Hilliard House Ministry. Ellie Meleski, a former staff member at St. Bridget was a driving force in the founding of Hilliard House.

Thank you Hilliard House!!

Upon arriving at Hilliard House, I did not have safe and secure housing for my family. Hilliard House opened their welcoming arms to offer my family housing and supportive services. I am truly grateful!

Transitional housing was not the only thing I received from Hilliard House. During my stay, I also received intensive supportive services from the entire Hilliard House staff. On a daily basis, each staff member provides my family with intensive and individualized supportive services.

Although I had employable skills and education, I had difficulty finding employment during these hard economic times. While I was unemployed, Hilliard House allowed me to work as a volunteer and deliver administrative support to Hilliard House's staff. I also received additional

skills by working as a paid Hilliard House Resident Monitor. This experience is invaluable, as it allows me to add further skills to my resume. Moreover, Hilliard House provided me with indispensable tools to help me reach my career goals.

I received intensive career services and training from an in-house Vocational Counselor, which allowed me to secure a great job at a major non-profit organization. At my new employment, I provided supervision, workshops and training to others to help them become gainfully employed. It is a blessing to be able to provide services to those who are in a similar situation as I found myself.

During the holiday season, Hilliard House offers an annual event called "Deck the Halls" and I was fortunate enough to attend this event with my children last De-

ember. While attending the Deck the Halls Event, I realized the dedication and commitment each supporter, staff person and Board member had for the families at Hilliard House. Everyone worked very hard and the event was so much fun! As an appreciative resident, I was able to observe everyone's devoted efforts to benefit the residents at Hilliard House.

In short, my life has changed dramatically and positively in such a short time, with the support of the Hilliard House organization.

—Yvonne

Yvonne and her family currently reside at Hilliard House. As with all of our residents, we celebrate the many accomplishments Yvonne and her family are making to better their lives.

Dear St. Bridget family,

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." ~Matthew 25:40

As Catholics, we are all called to serve our brothers and sisters in need as Christ tells us here in the Gospel of Matthew. This coming summer, many of our students from St. Bridget Catholic Church will have an opportunity to do just this. Catholic Heart Work Camp provides an amazing week of faith, service, fun, and fellowship for students. It is a great opportunity to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need while diving into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

We need your support as our parish family and community. There are many ways that you can support the students who will serve with Catholic Heart Work Camp this coming summer. First, we ask for your prayers during the preparation stages now and this summer during the actual weeks of camp. There are many different ways you can offer your prayers for the students including the Rosary, offering up a daily Mass, praying a novena, fasting, personal prayer, etc. Your prayers are very much appreciated and are the backbone of the success of Catholic Heart Work Camp.

Secondly, we need your support financially. Throughout the year, there will be a number of fundraising opportunities to support the students financially. These events include:

- Peanut Sales – December 3rd and 4th and 10th and 11th
- Spaghetti Dinner – March 3rd
- Mother's Day Cake Sale – May 12th and 13th
- A personal one-time donation

Catholic Heart Work Camp is a response to the Church's universal call to mission. During the summer of 2012, the students of St. Bridget will be serving people in Charleston, SC and Lancaster, PA communities. Last year, the parish sent 114 students, and this year we will send over 125. Thank you for your generous financial support through the second collection earlier this month. If you desire to make a contribution and did not have a chance to do so, you may use the envelope for the second collection this month or contribute through e-giving.

We are very grateful to you for your prayers, love, and support. God cannot be outdone in generosity! The fruits that will come from Catholic Heart Work Camp will be amazing to see. To find out more information about Catholic Heart Work Camp in general, visit www.heartworkcamp.com.

In Christ, CHWC Campers



Financial Update

Church Operating Fund Revenue & Expense Report Summary for the period July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011

Total revenue for the period July 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 was \$512,803 and expenditures totaled \$470,501. Income exceeded expenditures by \$42,302. The total year to date offertory for this fiscal year is \$396,821 (compared to a total fiscal year to date offertory of \$313,832 for 2010-11).

The parish is thankful for the generous bequests from the estate of Helen Coleman and the estate of Eleanor Tinsley. Memorial donations were received in memory of George Bragdon, George Meleski, Elizabeth Rozario, Ida Saxby and Ida Stebbing.

E-Giving offertory contributions for the quarter ending September 30, 2011 totaled \$99,023 (compared to \$55,438 in e-giving donations for the quarter ending September 30, 2010). More and more people are taking advantage of e-giving; the total amount of e-giving including offertory donations, School Building Fund contributions, and all other collections for quarter ending September 30, 2011 was \$113,250. Please consider E-Giving to make donations to the parish. E-Giving is an easy and secure way to make your contributions to the parish: Go to www.saintbridgetchurch.org and click on the E-Giving link to follow the easy directions to set-up recurring or one-time donations. 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. Please contact Kimberly Lapkin at 525.7888 or Kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org if you have any questions about this E-Giving service.

Saint Bridget Church has an absolute commitment to financial transparency and accountability. Monthly Income and Expense Reports are on file in the parish center office and are available for review during regular office hours.

During this Christmas Season, we are especially thankful to the many Saint Bridget parishioners that donate hundreds of hours every year to enhance the celebration of the Eucharist as liturgical ministers and musicians;

the members of our parish of all ages who volunteer their time to social outreach ministries that benefit Saint Bridget parish and our larger community;

to all those who devote time to teach the next generation about the faith through our school

and our religious education programs; to the dozens of parishioners who volunteer countless hours as sponsors for adults entering the Church through RCIA;

to those who take our most precious gift, the body of Christ, to home-bound parishioners;

we are also thankful for Father Capuano's presence in our parish and his spiritual guidance as well as his help and great insight with the youth of our parish; and

we are thankful for God's help and for Reverend Monsignor William H. Carr's enduring guidance, that Saint Bridget parish will continue to build on our foundation of generous giving, sound stewardship of resources, and planning for the future with a vision toward service in Christ.

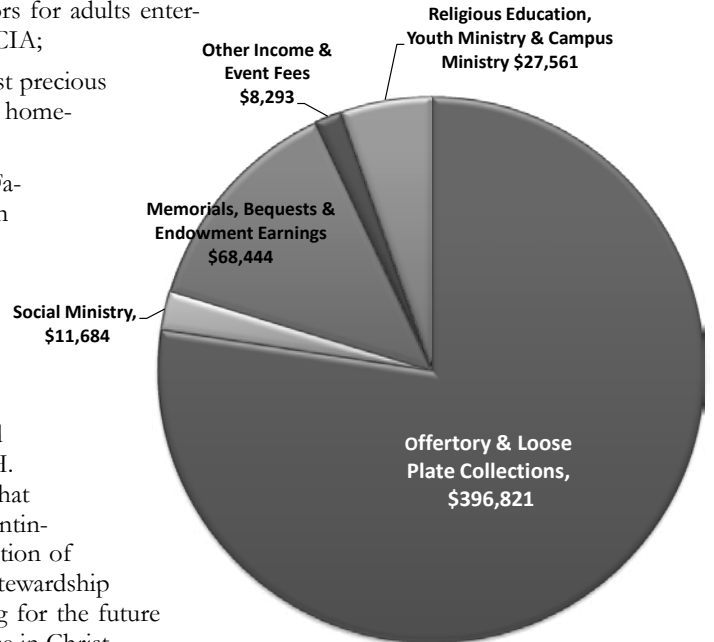
2011 YEAR-END GIVING

Thank you for financially supporting the many ministries of Saint Bridget parish! Take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made by December 31. For gifts to Saint Bridget parish, please contact Kimberly Lapkin, kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org, 525.7888. Please make sure your gift is postmarked (or received by the Church Office) by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2011. Year-end Statements of Contribution for the 2011 calendar year will be mailed in January 2012. This statement will describe the gift of securities and state the market value on the date of the gift and include all contributions made during the year 2011.

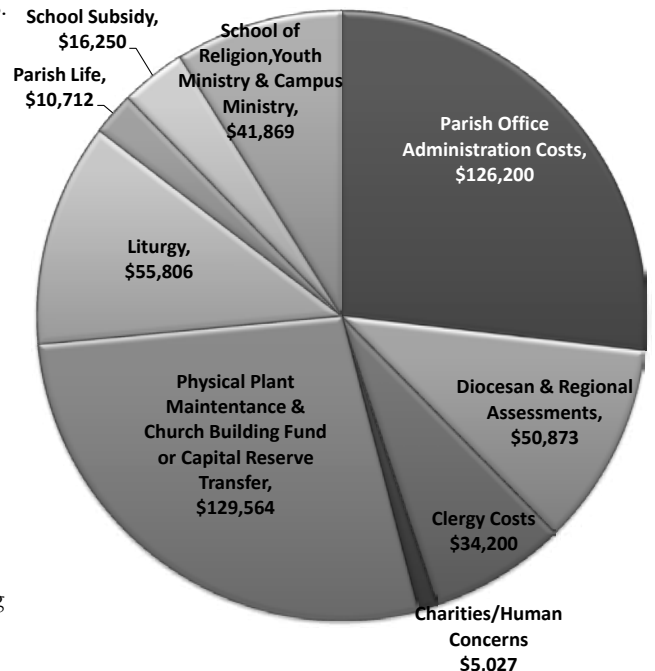
Thank you for your continued support of Saint Bridget Parish!

Kimberly Lapkin,
Director of Stewardship
kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org

Saint Bridget Church Operating Fund Revenues 7/01/2011 through 9/30/2011



Saint Bridget Church Operating Fund Expenditures 7/01/2011 through 9/30/2011



Contact Us

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

Clergy

Rev. Msgr. William H. Carr:
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parishmail@saintbridgetchurch.org

Father Brian Capuano:
Parochial Vicar,
bcapuano@saintbridgetchurch.org, 403

Father Michael Boehling:
Vicar for Vocations, In Residence

Rev. Mr. John Arkesteyn:
Permanent Deacon,
ark6565@comcast.net, 525.7904

Rev. Mr. Robert Giovenco:
Permanent Deacon,
bobbygio@comcast.net, 316

Rev. Mr. Tom Mullen:
University of Richmond Campus Minister,
tmullen@richmond.edu, 289.8447

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Allen Bean:
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Ray Honeycutt:
St. Bridget School Principal,
rhoneycutt@saintbridget.org, 288.1994

Teresa Lee:
Director, Religious Education & RCIA,
tle@saintbridgetchurch.org, 525.7896

Trish Markow:
Music Ministry Coordinator,
tmarkow@saintbridgetchurch.org,
525.7893

Parish Announcements

Knights of Columbus: Msgr. Francis Byrne Council 5476

Membership in the Knights of Columbus provides the opportunity for wholesome association with other Catholic gentlemen who recognize the same beliefs of duty to God, family & neighbors. Programs are tailored to individual members' interests. Come round out your lives with acts of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Become a Knight of Columbus! To learn more, contact Membership Director Victor MacLaughlin. Victor may be reached at 804.432.7897 or email maclaughlin@koc.org or Gary Port at 804.741-8666 or email gary.port@comcast.net.

Help Needed—Funeral Ministry is a group of people who are available to serve at Funeral Masses as Sacristans, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers & Greeters. If you are interested in helping with this important Ministry to our Parishioners please contact Trish Markow at tmarkow@saintbridgetchurch.org, or at the Church Office please call 525-7893. We are always in need of parishioners willing to serve. Thank you.

Saints and Sinners Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011,

11:00 am: Christmas Luncheon with Tom Fustala, Accordionist, entertaining. Mr. Fustala played with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. Attendees are invited to bring their favorite homemade Christmas cookies or baked item. Parish Commons.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012,

10:30 am: Paul Herbert, Storyteller, presents: "God Knows Your Name: Stories from American History"; Parish Commons.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012,

10:30 am: Fr. Brian Capuano, Parochial Vicar, will speak about his call to priesthood; Parish Commons.

Thursday, March 15, 2012,

11:00 am: Mass of the Anointing at 11:00 am, followed by a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon; Parish Commons.



Bill Young, as John Paul Jones gives a talk to the November Saints and Sinners gathering

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm: St. Bridget "Museum of Fine Arts" hosted by the Saints and Sinners and the St. Bridget School. Featuring artistic creations of our parishioners, and artwork of our St. Bridget School Children. Hors-d'oeuvres and finger foods served. Wine and beer available. Mother Presentation Hall, St. Bridget School.

Advent Reconciliation Ceremony
Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm

Contact Us

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

Administration

Michele Healy:
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525.7899

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Councils & Committees

Finance Council:
Scott Luxton, Scott.Luxton@verizon.net

Parish Pastoral Council:
Mark Sweeney,
msweeney@shoneysofrichmond.com
937-6185

Building Committee:
John McCulla,
jkmcculla@comcast.net, 306.2488

Sacraments

Baptisms

Liam DaSilva Cachina
Mason William Cachina
Owen Nicholas Erpelding
Alice Kay Fairservice
Isabella Marie Francesca
Jacob Christopher Francesca
Mary Boland Gushman
Lucia Marie Hanna
Julia Kincaid Hepper
Margaret Carothers Hepper
Dylan Bradley Hieber
Tyler Joseph Jiulianti
Elizabeth Anne King
Sean Alexander McAloon Jr.
Lucas Vaughn McClanahan
Hadley Elizabeth Grayce Mott
Caroline Grace Mullis
Erin Shiloh Robertson
August Elizabeth Wester
Matthew William Dunn
Piper Elizabeth Mathews
Olivia Wenner Steele
Joseph Henry Thompson
Brienne Davis Walsh
Quinn Piper Wiggins
Nathan Ryder Wittkamp

New Parishioners

John and Heidi Geary (Child: Megan)
Joseph & Jennifer Rellis (Children: Juliet Fugman and Sophia Rellis)
Gordon & Katie Fairservice (Child: Alice)
Matthew & Alison Puccinelli (Children: Isabella, Graylyn & Harper Puccinelli)
Amanda Florio & Brian Loden
Sarah Lysher
Meghan Wyka
Shaun & Meagan Hammond
Patrick & Lauren Mullins
Jennifer Smyth
William & Charlotte Cardullo
Frank & Christina Fowlkes (children: Christian & Ella)
John & Ann Slyh (children: John, Joseph, & Lauren)
John & Camille Mustachio (children: Joe & Mike)
Oliver & Heather Stone (children: Sophia & Xavier)

Marriages

Blair Bode and Joshua Barkley
Jana Chilton and Alex Copeland
Laura Gerwitz and Blake Augst
Cameron Isaacs and Kevin Cutro
Lisa Czajka and Albert Cabonilas
Emma Newton and Brian Swann
Emily Baxa and Nick Hogan
Mary Lou Kastelberg and Steve Bulger

Deaths

Elizabeth Rozario
James Duresky
Thomas Nuckols
Christine Powell Sheehy
Mary Ellen Richards
George Meleski
Patricia Crawford
Eddie Mary Cargill
Leslie Henson, Sr.

Veteran's Day Prayer Service

Saint Bridget School honored the Veterans who serve our nation and showed appreciation for their service in a thoughtful and reverent ceremony on Friday, November 11th. Lieutenant Commander Robert Bridges, father to Ginevra as well as an Iraq veteran, spoke of his duty and time in the military and stressed that above all it is an honor to serve this country. The Crawford family proudly presented their family flag to the Assembly. Ms. Crawford's grandfather served in WWII and her father served in the Marine Corp. The fourth grade class sang America, the Beautiful, recited the Soldier's Prayer and sang God Bless the USA. The service brought home the sacrifices the military makes for our nation as well as the sacrifice their families make. While sacrifice and honor were major themes there was also a message of hope and peace. In closing, the congregation sang God Bless America.

