



A Message from Monsignor Carr

Dear Parishioners,

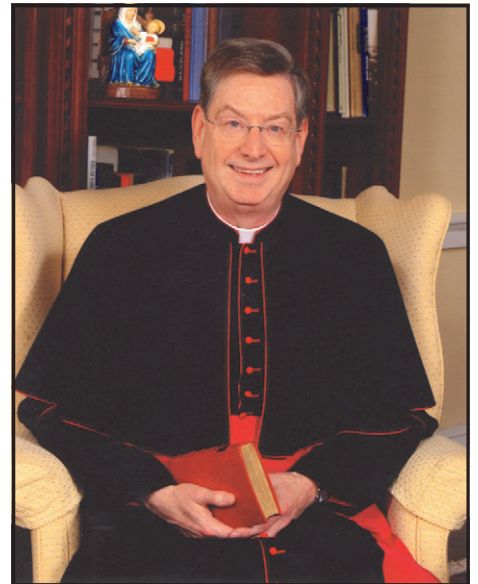
There is something in the newness of the year that stirs my energy and excitement. In January we ring in the new year with hope and promise. We make resolutions to become better people and to give ourselves fresh starts. We carry the glory of Christmas into the new year - all the lights and all the warmth and good wishes of the season embrace us as we go forward.

Recently, we began a new way of welcoming newcomers to our parish family. By the end of the year we will be celebrating a new version of the Mass, the first in forty years. This year we will introduce a Gospel approach to our parish annual financial commitment. Please be sure to read my letter included with The Bridge. As we approach the time to renew our stewardship commitment, it is good to reflect on one's sacrifice to God in thanks for all God has done and is doing for us.

Father Stanfill joins me in wishing you Happy New Year and countless blessings.

Blessings,

Monsignor William H. Carr



Monsignor William H. Carr, Pastor

At a Glance

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*Spotlight on
Eucharistic Ministry,
p. 2*



Contact Us!

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

Clergy

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Vicar for Vocations, In Residence

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Pastoral Staff

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Notes of Interest

Welcome New Parishioners!

Mr. & Mrs. David Friedman and Family

(wife is Lauren, child is Caroline)

Mr. Christopher Piacentini

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Quigley and Family

(wife is Amy, children are Mason, Carter and Knox)

Mr. Matthew Steele & Mrs. Sarah Anzelmo-Steele

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Wright and Family

(wife is Karen, child is Avery)

St. Bridget Parish Human Concerns minister Paul Amrhein (PA) now coordinates our parish family outreach to the sick and homebound by working with Eucharistic Ministers who bring Holy Communion to them. The following is an interview, conducted by Communications Director Lauren Bass (LB) about the importance of St. Bridget's Eucharistic Ministry and how to become a Eucharistic Minister.

- LB:** Paul, what does the parish do for the sick and homebound?
PA: We have an enthusiastic group of Eucharistic Ministers who have brought Holy Communion to the sick and homebound for years, ably led by the late Mary Townsend. When I took this over after Mary's untimely death I discovered about two dozen parishioners who visit over sixty people.
- LB:** That sounds very beautiful. What happens during these visits?
PA: Our Eucharistic Ministers pray with their fellow parishioner using the Church's ritual for such visits. It's actually very simple and very touching.
- LB:** Is there any training required?
PA: Yes, I am happy to provide that. They also ask to gather for prayer & to support one another. So we are scheduling a little retreat on January 4 at 7 p.m. for them. I'd like to pray with them & review the Church's procedures for bringing Holy Communion to the sick & homebound.
- LB:** So there is a certain way to go about this?
PA: They are representatives of the Church & they are required to follow certain procedures. They bring the Lord & represent our parish so they know it is crucial for them to have the utmost reverence for the Sacrament & to follow Church guidelines.
- LB:** Can a parishioner just bring Holy Communion to someone in their family?
PA: Eucharistic Ministers to the sick & homebound must be known to the pastor as parishioners who are living exemplary Catholic lives, who receive a special orientation & who are commissioned by him for this beautiful ministry.
- LB:** Do you need some more people doing this or do you have enough?
PA: We need help & we welcome help! I do welcome the interest of parishioners who may wish to become involved in this and I will guide them along in the process.
- LB:** I know Monsignor Carr & the whole parish thanks you for leading this ministry & thanks the parishioners who give time & energy so others can be embraced especially when they are unable to attend Mass.
PS: It's important & I feel privileged to help.

The Campaign for Saint Bridget School

Saint Bridget School Capital Campaign - November 30, 2010

Total Project Costs:	\$ 3,612,512
Campaign Pledges:	
Pledges	\$ 1,405,205
Matching Gifts Pledged	\$ 46,300
Total Pledged	\$ 1,451,505
Collections & Other Receipts:	
Pledges Collected	\$ 955,677
Matching Gifts Received	\$ 29,850
Non-Pledged Cash Contributions	\$ 190,298
St. Bridget School PTO Gift	\$ 50,000
School Capital Reserve Transfer	\$ 725,290
Interest Earned	\$ 547
Total Received	\$ 1,951,662
Outstanding Collections:	
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 449,528
Outstanding Matching Gifts	\$ 16,450
Total Outstanding Collections Due	\$ 465,978
Remaining Capital Campaign Balance to be Funded:	\$ 1,194,872
PROJECT LOAN BALANCE as of November 30, 2010	
Total Borrowed	\$ 2,201,607
Amount Paid on Loan	\$ 734,155
Current Loan Balance	\$ 1,467,452



Saint Bridget School Building Fund

Thank you to those who have made a gift to this campaign!

- ♦ School Building Fund donations totaled \$6,261 for the month of November.
- ♦ Thank you for your much needed contributions to this campaign to make our interest and principle payments on the loan! A principal payment of \$6,309 was made in November. Pledge payments are figured into the debt reduction—your help is needed by making timely payments on your pledge. Debt places an undue burden on our school's tuition and third-source funding, and this stresses our balanced budget. While our Finance Council is diligent in assuring that the loan is handled in the most cost effective manner, our goal is to eliminate a need to borrow.
- ♦ If you are still on the sidelines, please consider **now** how you can serve in this historic renovation project for our school – and act **this week** with your sacrificial gift.
- ♦ \$1,341 was received in November from **E-Giving donations**. To make a contribution on-line via E-Giving, please visit our parish website: www.saintbridgetchurch.org & click on the "Online Giving" link. Thank you to those using the Saint Bridget School Building Fund envelope found in the offertory envelope to make donations to the School Building Fund!
- ♦ You may contact our Director of Stewardship to discuss your gift: Kimberly Lapkin, kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org, 525.7888.

Contact Us!

Dial 282.9511,
then use 3-digit extensions.

Administration

Lauren Elizabeth Bass:
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Councils & Committees

Finance Council:
Scott Luxton,
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Parish Pastoral Council:
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Building Committee:
John McCulla,
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Contact Us!

Parish Life Groups

Alpha: Michael Siewers,
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Catholic Heart Work Camp:
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741.5305; 426.5298

Haiti Committee: Paul Amrhein,
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Knights of Columbus: Gary R. Port,
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Men's Ministry: Leon Shadowen,
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Men's Catholic Bible Study:
Frank deVenoge,
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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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Saints & Sinners:
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426.3815

Human Concerns Ministry—Spotlight



Spotlight on Human Concerns' Ministry – This section will periodically highlight one of the ministries our parishioners support with their 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 CARITAS (Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter). †

When we host CARITAS at St. Bridget's there is a moment when I feel anxiety. It is the moment I approach & sit with guests as they are eating their dinner. This is the time the phrase "when two or more are gathered in His name..." becomes real for me.

I try to have something to drink or eat with me, & ask if I might join them. It is an awkward moment, but every year I have been welcomed with courtesy. The gentle men I sat with this year made small talk with me & one in particular was kind enough to tell me about himself.

His name is Alonzo. I will never know his last name but he is the man I will pray for specifically. Each year I am reminded that every man on every cot has a story.

Alonzo's age could be anywhere from thirty to forty five, over six feet tall... a big man with a soft, southern voice. He is originally from a large family in LaGrange, Georgia. He spoke of them with affection & love. I don't know how long he has lived & worked in Richmond, but he told me that when the weather was still warm he saw a group of homeless individuals gathered near Brown's Island when he & a co-worker were walking at lunch. He told his friend that when the winter weather arrived he would come back with blankets & coats.

"By that time" he said, "I was one of them".

Alonzo went on to explain that his situation is magnified by a serious heart condition. It runs in his family & he has a cousin that has died from the same problem. His doctors & treatment are local & although his family wants him to come home he feels he cannot leave. It would require having to begin again with new doctors; an overwhelming task that would take time & he cannot afford, physically or economically. Never when he was sharing his story he did he seem to be unhappy or complaining, just sharing & accepting who & where he is at this moment in his life. He thanked Saint Bridget's for taking him & the other men in.

God is always present. When I prayerfully move through my own uncertainty & sit down with our guests He is there. The CARITAS guests know this & do not hesitate to share their thankfulness to Him & to us.

We provide shelter & a wholesome dinner to these men & they humbly & sincerely appreciate our efforts on their behalf.

But, what they give me & to all of us who volunteer cannot be measured. It is the spiritual gift of themselves at a time in their lives when they know they are fully in God's hands.

– An anonymous CARITAS volunteer

Sacraments



Baptisms

Briella Grae Ansell
Sophie Elizabeth Ciszek
Braeden Elizabeth Conway
Kaylee Joyce Costello
Mary Grace Gasperini
Charles Taylor Geissler
Brock Jacob Goldstein
Lana Bluebell Goldstein
Ethan Thomas Hegeman
Virginia McKinnley Logan
Thomas Joseph Namorato
Tristan Silas Spencer
Caleb Ian Tan
Joy Vivian Vollmer
James Philip Wallace
Evelyn Page Whipple
Avery Rose Wright

Full Communion

Michael Fuller
Kimberly Perry
Janet Polarek
Brian Sommardahl
Patricia Stanard



Deaths

Philip Clark Baxa
Karen Louise Dynia
Marie Doris Franko
Irene Garcia
Sr. Rose O'Brien, CBS
Claire Levesque Smith
Beverly Randolph Tucker III
Margaret "Peggy" Williams

Sacrament of Confirmation

Megan McAloon
Christoph Sutphin
Nikolas Sutphin
Stephanie Socia



Weddings



Ashley Foster and Michael Jalbert

Catholic Heart Work Camp Announcements

CHWC INVITES YOUTH TO A RETREAT "YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS"

February 11th (7 p.m. to 10 p.m.) & February 12th (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.) in Mother Presentation Hall

FREE! Lunch & snacks are provided

T-Shirts are available (pre-order only) & are free with your Dance-A-Thon ticket or \$12

Open to middle & high school students

Fr. Geoff Rose (Presenter) & Andy Cloninger (Music Minister)

Sign-Ups after all masses January 15th/ 16th & January 22nd/ 23rd

Questions: contact Mark Kowalski (525-7901) or Anne-Marie Condlin (426-5298)

DANCE - A - THON

February 12th from 7 p.m. to midnight following the retreat

Open to middle & high school students

Cost is \$20 per person - includes dinner from Chipotle & a T-Shirt (if you sign up by January 23rd)

Tickets on sale after all masses January 15th/16th & January 22nd/23rd.

Come support the mission trip & have a great time!

November 2010 Church Operating Fund Revenue and Expense Report

Revenue	Nov 2010	Year to Date Jul 10 – Nov 10
Parishioner Offertory Contributions & Cash Plate	\$ 106,406	\$ 470,083
E-Giving Offertory Contributions	18,810	93,316
Human Concerns Contributions	3,618	19,095
Haiti Contributions + Sponsor a Child	3,274	37,392
2nd Collections— Campaign for Human Development	1,926	7,397
Holy Day Collection	339	2,906
Wedding Fees	1,000	5,400
Religious Education Fees— collected for the 2010-11 year	2,820	39,360
Youth Mission Trip—Catholic Heart Work Camp	6,446	23,706
Votive Candle Offerings	417	1,677
Hospitality Special Events Revenue –transfer of Cookie Lewis Concert Revenue	(1,950)	368
Bequests & Memorials	150	8,930
Special Donations & Catholic Virginian & Other Revenue	729	12,306
Flower Memorials and Donations	65	295
Campus Ministry Revenue & Diocesan Subsidy	1,327	8,223
Unrealized Gains (Losses) on Investments	(156)	12,412
Dividends & Interest	0	88
Endowment Fund Earnings Transfer	0	15,795
	<i>Total Revenue</i> \$ 145,221	\$ 758,749
Expenses		
Administrative Costs & Employee Benefits	\$ 43,012	\$ 211,204
Diocesan & Regional Assessments	14,807	72,676
Human Concerns/Social Ministry	13,479	29,713
Capital Reserve Fund Transfer (no transfers made to date)	0	0
Development	115	1,322
Physical Plant Maintenance, Salaries, Utilities	21,978	96,341
Liturgy Ministries & Costs	16,469	72,123
Clergy/Religious Salaries & Benefits	10,301	55,104
Religious Education & Youth Ministry	10,055	50,510
Rectory Household Costs	6,376	36,795
2nd Collections/Donations Disbursed	5,200	44,789
Membership/Hospitality	6,482	22,840
Youth Mission Trip—Catholic Heart Work Camp	8,286	16,332
Campus Ministry	861	2,872
Catholic Virginian	2,042	10,210
Parish School Subsidy (no payments made to date)	0	0
	<i>Total Expenses</i> \$ 159,463	\$ 722,831

Summary of November 2010 Church Operating Fund Revenue & Expense Report

Revenue/Expenditure Comparison

For the period November 2010, expenditures exceeded revenue by \$14,242. For the fiscal year to date, income exceeded expenditures by \$35,918. The church savings account fund balance for the month was \$8,525. Although income exceeded expenditures, a low cash balance in the church checking account did not allow payment of the School Subsidy of \$16,250 once again in November. The cash balance did allow the quarterly donations budgeted for our human concerns ministries of just over \$10,650 to be paid in November. School Subsidy payments will be paid as soon as the balance allows in December. All Diocesan assessments have been paid to date.

Offertory

The weekly offertory for November 2010 averaged \$31,304 (compared to an average weekly collection of \$25,174 in October). Weekly offertory for November 2009 averaged \$29,869 and for November 2008 averaged \$29,868.

Monthly and Year to Date Comparisons

The total monthly offertory for November 2010 was \$125,216 compared to the total monthly offertory for November 2009 of \$149,348 and a total offertory of in \$148,140 of 2008. The total year to date offertory for this fiscal year is \$563,398 (compared to a total year to date offertory of \$583,324 for the 2009-10 fiscal year and to \$586,988 for the 2008-09 fiscal year). This comparison is based on four weekend collections in November 2010 and five weekend collections in November 2009.

Holy Day Collections

Holy Day Collections for the fiscal year to date total \$2,906 (compared to \$2,967 for the 2009-10 fiscal year).

Memorials

Memorial donations were received in memory of Eugene Kastelberg, Lenore Teter and Mary Townsend.

Human Concerns

We thank you for continuing to support the mission of Saint Bridget Catholic Church. The following donations were made in November: \$2,500 to Catholic Charities HELP; \$1,312 to CrossOver Ministry; \$1,150 to St. Francis Home; \$787 to Hilliard House; \$1,125 to Pregnancy Resource Center; \$750 to St. Peter's Door Ministry; \$625 to CARITAS; \$550 to William Byrd Center; \$525 to Freedom House; \$625 to Home Again; \$500 Micah Initiative; \$200 to Coal Pit Learning Center; and \$1,436 was given to those in need of assistance in our community.

E-Giving

E-Giving offertory contributions in November totaled \$18,810 (compared to \$18,111 in e-giving donations in November 2009 and \$8,753 in November 2008). 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 November was \$21,835.

Please consider E-Giving to make donations to the parish while away from home. To make a contribution on-line, please visit our Web site: www.saintbridgetchurch.org and click on the "Online Giving" link.

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 see the E-Giving website for details including a live demo at www.e-giving.org. Remember, you the "Contributor" exclusively control your activity. You do not interface with any other party. Please contact Kimberly Lapkin at 525.7888 or kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org if you have any questions about this E-Giving service.

Thank You!

Thank you to the many parishioners who give their time, talent and treasure to strengthen and enhance the ministries of our parish. You make things happen. You share your faith, hope and love with others. We at Saint Bridget parish have been blessed in many ways! Thank you for your continued support!

Kimberly Lapkin, *Director of Stewardship*
kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org

Parish Announcements!

SAVE THE DATE! ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Training sessions are as follows for any St. Bridget parishioner in the 5th grade & above who would like to be an altar server.

<i>Friday, January 28, 2011</i>	<i>3:45 – 5:45 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, February 4, 2011</i>	<i>3:45 – 5:45 p.m.</i>
<i>Saturday, February 12, 2011</i>	<i>1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Friday, February 18, 2011</i>	<i>3:45 – 5:45 p.m.</i>
<i>Sunday, February 20, 2011</i>	<i>1:15 – 3:15 p.m.</i>

If interested you must attend ANY 3 COMPLETE (no late arrivals or dismissals) sessions from the above dates. Tack on ½ hour to your 3rd session for evaluation. There will be a very brief parent meeting at the beginning of the first session. Registration forms are available on the youth bulletin board in the commons.

ATTENTION ALL VETERAN ALTAR SERVERS! THURIFER TRAINING

Saturday, March 12, 2011
11:00 a.m.

If you have been altar serving for 2 or more years & would like to become a thurifer (incense bearer), mark March 12th on your calendar & contact Mrs. McMenamain at 740-2744 or italianmamma82@hotmail.com.

Alpha: Saint Bridget is the first Catholic church in Richmond to offer Alpha, a class that delves into the meaning of Christianity. Over the course of ten weeks of relaxed dinner & video meetings, participants learn more about their personal relationship with Jesus & the Holy Spirit. Alpha will begin on Thursday, January 13th, 6:00 p.m. To register or learn more about Alpha contact Michael Siewers at 804.353.7884.

Saints & Sinners: sponsors an interesting program by Dr. Hugo Seibel titled "Anecdotes in Medical Anatomy". Dr. Seibel is presently Professor Emeritus at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. He will begin his presentation at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 13, 2011. Coffee & desserts will be served. Sign up today on the Saints & Sinners bulletin board in the Commons Corridor.

Micah Initiative New Mentor Training: Thursday, January 27, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 5404 Monument Avenue, 23226. Contact person, Diane Munsey 285-6500. Bring a brown bag supper; beverages & dessert provided. RSVP by January 25 to Mary Hetzel hetzelmary@comcast.net or 282-5872 - indicate name of your faith community & school (St. Bridget and Blackwell)

Help Us Communicate!

Contact the Communications Office (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 10th of the month prior to desired publication month.

E-News

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

Website

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