



# Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

*Veritatem Facientes in Caritate*

[www.institute-christ-king.org](http://www.institute-christ-king.org)



## Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

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[www.institute-christ-king.org/bridgeport-home](http://www.institute-christ-king.org/bridgeport-home)

[www.facebook.com/StsCyrilandMethodiusOratory](https://www.facebook.com/StsCyrilandMethodiusOratory)

### Clergy & Staff

#### **Institute Superiors**

Msgr. R. Michael Schmitz, S.T.D., J.C.D.  
*Vicar General of the Institute*

Reverend Canon Matthew Talarico  
*Provincial Superior*

#### **Church Staff**

Reverend Canon Francis X. Altieri IV  
*Pastor & Rector*

Dr. Samuel Schmitt  
*Director of Sacred Music & Organist*  
[samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org](mailto:samuel.schmitt@carlschmitt.org)

Mrs. Laurie Furey  
*Office Manager*  
[stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org)

### Mass Times

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Low Mass  
10:15 a.m. High Mass

**Monday-Saturday:** 7:45 a.m. Low Mass

**Holy Days:** *please consult the bulletin*

### Confessions

*30 minutes before Mass every day (Sundays before both Masses) & First Fridays from 5:15 to 5:45 p.m. (during Adoration)*

### Devotions

**Every Thursday:** Holy Hour at 6 p.m.

**First Friday:** Additional Mass at 6 p.m., preceded by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 5 p.m.

**First Saturday:** After Mass, Adoration with Holy Rosary, 15-minute meditation & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

# Weekly Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{called, GAUDETE SUNDAY}

8:30 a.m. - Leo Whitmore

*requested by George & Nancy Whitmore*

10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo

6:00 p.m. - Vespers & Benediction

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

## Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Marianne Bell

*requested by Edward Reyen*

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

## Saint Lucy

7:45 a.m. - Sara Kinani & Louis Alanz

*requested by Sara Kinani & Louis Alanz*

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

## Ember Wednesday of Advent

7:45 a.m. - Guadalupe T. Castillo

*requested by Gary & Diana Burt*

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

## Mass of the Immaculate Conception

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks

*requested by Grace Monks*

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

## Ember Friday of Advent

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Mary Tkacik

*requested by John Tkacik*

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

{O Sapientia}

## Ember Saturday of Advent

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Ole Reyen

*requested by Edward Reyen*

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

{O Adonai}

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. - Michael & Janelle Manoni & Family

*requested by George Smith & Denise Manoni-Smith*

10:15 a.m. - Pro Populo

6:00 p.m. - Vespers & Benediction



# Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Adult Theology at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall  
Theme of talk: "The Creation and Fall of Man"

Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

Saint Joseph Men's Group meeting beginning with Adoration at 6:30 p.m. in church

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

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

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

First Holy Communion Catechism class after the morning Mass—*these classes are mandatory*

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Brief "meet and greet" in the church hall after the High Mass for all healthcare professionals in the parish

\* Server practice after Mass for Solemn Vespers \*  
Solemn Choral Vespers & Benediction for the Fourth Sunday of Advent ("O Adonai") at 6:00 p.m., followed by seasonal treats in the church hall

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS EVE

Office of Prime with Christmas Martyrology at 8:30 a.m. (after morning Mass)

Christmas Carols & Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS DAY

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m. & High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

December 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>

Special temporary week-day Mass schedule: Holy Mass at 8:00 a.m., with confessions *afterwards* (church will open at 7:45 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

FEAST OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Traditional blessing of wine after morning Mass

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

Holy Hour with Te Deum & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

EPIPHANY EVE

First Vespers & Water Blessing at 6:00 p.m.

## ✠ THE ADVENT EMBER DAYS ✠

This week we observe the Ember Days of winter, which always fall the week after Gaudete Sunday. The “Ember Days,” as the original Latin name suggests, are observed at the four seasons of the year—the English word “Ember” seems to be a corruption of the Latin *Quator Tempora*, which literally means “four times” (a more archaic, but more literal, translation refers to these days in English as the “Quarter Tense” days). The Ember days are observed on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the quarterly Ember weeks. The Ember weeks fall the week after Ash Wednesday (spring), in the octave of Pentecost (summer), after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (autumn) and after the feast of Saint Lucy (winter), giving rise to the convenient mnemonic jingle: *Lenty, Penty, Crucy, Lucy*. Pope Saint Leo the Great (+ 461) considers the Ember Days, at least generically, to be of apostolic origin, although the current liturgical arrangement of the Ember days was established by Pope Saint Gregory VII (+1085).

The Ember days are traditionally penitential days of fast and abstinence, although since the reform of the fasting regulations in 1966 (after Vatican II), fasting on these days is no longer *obligatory*; nonetheless, it is still a pious and praiseworthy custom to fast and/or abstain on these days, for those whose constitution and daily duties enable them to do so. Especially during Advent, the observance of Embertide gives us a good way to strike the right penitential balance proper to this season. In the missal, the Ember days all have their own special Mass formula, with an additional reading prescribed before the epistle for each Ember Wednesday and five additional readings prescribed for each Ember Saturday. For many centuries, it was the custom of the Roman Church to confer holy orders on Ember Saturdays, with one of the seven orders, minor (porter, lector, exorcist, acolyte) and major (subdeacon, deacon, priest), being conferred after each reading. The Advent Embertide has a distinctly Marian tone, which is very fitting: in the Gospel of Ember Wednesday we hear of the Annunciation to Our Lady by Saint Gabriel, and in the Gospel of Ember Friday we hear of Our Lady’s Visitation to Saint Elizabeth.

The Ember days have two primary purposes: First, to beg God’s blessings for a plentiful harvest at the four seasons of the year; and in this sense the Ember Days purify the ancient Roman, pagan nature festivals and fulfill the Hebrew festivals of the first fruits, which were prescribed in the Old Testament. Secondly, their purpose is to pray for vocations and do penance for the sanctification of the clergy, a practice going back to the Book of Acts, which testifies that the first Christians “had ordained to them priests in every church, and had prayed with fasting” (Acts 14:22).

### **Making Responses at Mass**

At Low Masses, the **server or servers make the responses** on behalf of the people. It is not our custom at the Oratory to hold the so-called “Dialogue Mass,” in which the congregation responds aloud with the servers. All are welcome to join in the Leonine Prayers recited after Low Mass, however.

At High Masses, the people are encouraged to sing the responses along with the choir, if they know them. Please note that **during Advent**, however, we use a special tone for the *Asperges*, which differs from the one used throughout the year. Therefore, if you are not familiar with this special tone, please let the choir sing the *Asperges* alone during Advent.

### **Institute Christmas Cards**

**\$20 per pack • Available in church**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered by the U.S. Provincial Superior on Christmas Day for all those who receive one of these beautiful Christmas cards.



### **Institute Calendars**

The Institute Calendars for 2023 are now available in the church narthex for a **freewill offering**

## We welcome you today the Oratory Parish of 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 next monthly social hour. If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at the 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, 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 5 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. Please hold all conversations 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.

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.

### Christmas Oplatki

Oplatki (traditional Christmas wafers) are available in the church narthex on the Sundays in Advent while supplies last.

**Cost is \$3**

### Advent Food Drive

This Advent, the Oratory will be collecting items for the food bank run by the Daughters of Charity of the Precious Blood here in Bridgeport. The items being collected are: non-expired canned goods, dry foods and grooming items (no perishable items or items requiring freezing or refrigeration). Please drop off your items (in a disposable carrier bag if possible) in the back entrance to church. Thank you for your charity to those in need this Advent!

### SOLEMN CHORAL VESPERS & BENEDICTION Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The last week of Advent, dedicated to the famous "O Antiphons" which are used at Vespers, is sometimes known as *Wisdomtide* (the first antiphon of the series is *O Sapientia*, "O Wisdom"). On the last Sunday of Advent, please join us for Solemn Vespers & Benediction, with beautiful chant and polyphony by our choir. (Servers are needed for the ceremony—please contact Canon if you can help with serving).

In keeping with the mediæval Catholic custom of lightening the Advent penance to enjoy the season of *Wisdomtide* with special festivities, there will be a social afterwards in the church hall. Please sign up to bring an item to share. Suggested treats include: mince pies & brandy butter; sugar plums; traditional plum pudding; wassail or mulled wine...



December 11<sup>th</sup> 2022

Third Sunday of Advent