



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Veritatem Facientes in Caritate

www.institute-christ-king.org



Church of Saints Cyril & Methodius

79 Church Street - Bridgeport, Connecticut 06608

Telephone: (203) 333-7003

stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org

www.institute-christ-king.org/bridgeport-home

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

Mrs. Laurie Furey

Office Manager

stscyrilandmethodius@institute-christ-king.org

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Monday to Friday (except Wednesday)

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 (until 7 minutes before the start of Mass)

Regular Devotions

Every Thursday: Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m.

First Friday: Additional Mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Masses this Week

Sunday, December 17th

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

{*O Sapientia*}

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ Thomas J. Monks
requested by Grace Monks

Monday, December 18th

Greater Feria of Advent

{*O Adonai*}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Pietro Zeolla

requested by Mario & Maureen Ciardiello

Tuesday, December 19th

Greater Feria of Advent

{*O Radix Jesse*}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ David Baur

requested by George & Nancy Whitmore

Wednesday, December 20th

Ember Wednesday

{*O Clavis David*}

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Nicholas Stuben

requested by Gregory Mikulka

Thursday, December 21st

Saint Thomas, Apostle

{*O Oriens*}

7:45 a.m. - Michael Prendergast, Jr.

requested by Kate Prendergast

Friday, December 22nd

Ember Friday

{*O Rex gentium*}

7:45 a.m. - Canon Matthew Talarico

requested by Parishioners

Saturday, December 23rd

Ember Saturday

{*O Emmanuel*}

7:45 a.m. - Our Lady of the Annunciation
of Clear Creek Abbey

requested by Andrew & Shannon Palaia

Sunday, December 24th

VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

{*Fourth Sunday of Advent*}

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - Thomas Huminski

requested by Linda Gaboardi



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 17th

GAUDETE SUNDAY {*O Sapientia*}

Solemn Mass at 10:15 a.m., with guest celebrant
Father Peter Lenox from the diocese

Solemn Vespers at 6:00 p.m., followed by
“Sapientiatide” reception with seasonal treats

December 18th to December 23rd

Vespers in church everyday at 6:00 p.m.

{No holy hour on December 21st}

Extra confession times available after Vespers each day

December 20th, 22nd and 23rd

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Traditionally days of fast & abstinence

Sunday, December 24th

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday Low Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Prime & Martyrology at 9:45 a.m. {*no confessions*}

Sunday High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

No Vespers or Benediction

Christmas Carols at 11:30 p.m., followed by High
Mass of Midnight

Monday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church will open in time for 8:00 a.m. confessions

Low Mass at 8:30 a.m.

High Mass at 10:15 a.m.

December 26th to 30th

Daily Masses at 8:00 a.m., with confessions
available after Mass {church opens at 7:45 a.m.}

Sunday, December 31st

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Holy Hour & Te Deum at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 6th

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

High Mass at 10:15 a.m., followed by traditional
blessing of chalk {no early Low Mass}

Reception in the church hall after the ceremony

Sunday, January 7th

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Blessing of children after both Masses

Young Adults Epiphany brunch after High Mass

✠ WISDOMTIDE: THE SEASON OF THE O ANTIPHONS ✠

From a liturgical point of view, the season of Advent can be divided into four unequal parts. (1) The first two weeks of Advent introduce the standard elements of the season: the violet vestments; the suppression of the *Gloria* at all Masses of the season and of the *Alleluia* on Advent ferias during the week; the proper liturgical texts, such as the hymn *Creator alme siderum* at Vespers. (2) Gaudete Sunday, the third of the four Sundays of Advent, introduces the second half of the season, and from now on at Matins we hear *Prope est jam Dominus*, “the Lord is now near,” instead of *Adoremus venturum Dominum*, “Let us adore the Lord who is to come,” which we hear in the first two weeks. This second phase of Advent is also called Embertide, because the winter Ember Days always fall on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this third week. (3) From December 17th to 23rd we have a “mini-season” unofficially known as “Wisdomtide,” about which we shall say more in a moment. Because of the fluctuating length of Advent from year to year (barely three weeks or four full weeks), Embertide and Wisdomtide can overlap or even coincide. This year, with the shortest possible Advent, these two “phases” coincide completely, and the O Antiphons begin on Gaudete Sunday. (4) Christmas Eve, or the Vigil of Christmas, on December 24th forms the capstone of the Advent season, and although it is barely a day long (because already with Vespers that afternoon the feast of Christmas begins), it has its own unique liturgy. This Vigil is so important that if it falls on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy of the Vigil outranks that of the Sunday, whereas normally Vigils cannot be observed on a Sunday.

Wisdomtide, or Sapientiatide, is famous for the “O Antiphons” which are sung every evening at Vespers before and after the Magnificat (the Magnificat, Our Lady’s canticle of thanksgiving, is the high point of Vespers, during which the altar is incensed, if the ceremony is celebrated solemnly). According to Dom Guéranger, these antiphons “contain the whole pith of the Advent Liturgy,” and Cardinal Newman calls them the “heralds of Christmas.” An *antiphon* is a short text sung before and after the psalms of the Divine Office. Each of the great antiphons of Advent begins with the exclamation “O,” followed by a title of Our Lord taken from the Old Testament, then an appeal for Him to come—*Veni!* The first antiphon, *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), gives this week its special name: Sapientiatide, which almost makes it a “season within a season” at the end of Advent. Even on ferial days during Sapientiatide, the Magnificat is sung in the solemn tone; and, unlike the usual practice, everyone remains standing while the antiphon is sung.

Looking backwards from the end of the series, the first letters of the invocations spell out the acrostic ERO CRAS—“tomorrow, I shall be.” The verses of the popular Advent hymn *O come, O come, Emmanuel* are inspired by the invocations of the O Antiphons. In the Middle Ages, this last week of Advent (especially the first day of the Antiphons on December 17th) was a time of mirth: even in monasteries the Advent fast was lightened, and the monks were treated to a special celebration that might include wine, pears, almonds, and other treats. Although it was always the abbot who intoned the first antiphon in the series, *O Sapientia*, it was sometimes a sense of humour rather than a strict sense of hierarchy that decided who would intone the antiphons on the other days. For example, more often than not that it was the monastery gardener who was given the privilege of intoning the antiphon *Radix Jesse*, “O Root of Jesse.” Please join us tonight for solemn Vespers and make the most of the high point of Advent!



{ Above: see if you can figure out the symbolism in this illustration. Each letter is the start of one of the O Antiphons, in reverse order. }

We welcome you today to Saints Cyril and Methodius Oratory!

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 coffee hour. If you are interested in registering as a parishioner, forms are available at both entrances.

Holy Mass and all the sacraments at Saints Cyril & Methodius 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 and feasts, 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 7 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. Everyone is kindly reminded that all conversations should be held 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 (available in baskets by the entrances).

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.

ADVENT SOLEMN VESPERS - TODAY! Gaudete Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m.

During the last week of Advent we celebrate a special season dedicated to the "Great O Antiphons."

Join us for Solemn Vespers in celebration of "O Sapientia - O Wisdom," followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

There will be a festive Advent reception after the ceremony the church hall.

Christmas Oplatki for Sale

Oplatki (traditional Christmas wafers) are for sale in the narthex and will be available while supplies last. Cost is \$3.

Christmas Spiritual Bouquet for the Bishop

If you wish to participate in a spiritual bouquet for His Excellency Bishop Caggiano, please fill out a sheet at one of the church entrances or e-mail the office, indicating the number and nature of the devotions you wish to offer for our bishop. Please make sure to let us know by Tuesday, December 19th!



December 17th 2023

Third Sunday of Advent