



# 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)

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

### Devotions

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

**First Friday:** Additional Mass at 6:00 p.m., preceded by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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

## Masses this Week

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo

10:15 a.m. - ✠ John Tvardzik Brent  
*requested by Gregory Mikulka*

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Peter Chrysologus**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Joseph Sr. & Anna Adam  
*requested by Marian Adam*

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

**Advent Feria**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Carl Q. Nelson  
*requested by Mary L. Nelson*

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Nicholas**

7:45 a.m. - Nicole Pia  
*requested by Thomas & Lisa DeFelice*

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Saint Ambrose**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Marie Reyen  
*requested by Edward Reyen*

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

7:45 a.m. - Pro Populo  
6:00 p.m. - ✠ Thomas M. Collins  
*requested by Kate Prendergast*

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**Mass of the Immaculate Conception**

7:45 a.m. - ✠ Cornelius & Margaret O'Donovan  
*requested by Colleen M. McCarty*

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:30 a.m. - Pro Populo  
10:15 a.m. - ✠ Ferdinand Rogel (in memoriam)  
*requested by Michael & Lenore Opalak*



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Novena Sermon at both Masses

**Father Richard Cipolla:** *The Visitation*

Monthly coffee hour after the 10:15 a.m. Mass  
Books & Christmas cards available in church hall  
*Vespers & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.*

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

Novena Devotions & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

**Father Sam Kachuba:** *Purification of Our Lady*

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Novena Devotions & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

**Father Andrew LaFleur:** *Our Lady of Sorrows*

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Novena Devotions & Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

**Father Brian Gannon:** *The Assumption*

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Solemn Choral First Vespers of the Immaculate  
Conception after the Novena sermon at 6:00 p.m.

**Father Colin Lomnitzer:** *Queenship of Our Lady*

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION {*holy day of obligation*}

7:45 a.m. - Low Mass

6:00 p.m. - Presentation of an *ex voto* to Our Lady  
on behalf of the parish, followed by annual Act of  
Consecration and Solemn Mass

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

First Holy Communion catechism class at 9:00 a.m.

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

GAUDETE SUNDAY {*O Sapientia*}

Solemn Mass at 10:15 a.m., with guest celebrant  
Father Peter Lenox, Director of Divine Worship  
for the Diocese of Bridgeport

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

December 18<sup>th</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Vespers in church every day at 6:00 p.m.

*Extra Advent Confessions available afterwards*

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Traditionally days of fast and abstinence

# The “Patron Saints” of Advent: Lessons from the Liturgy

## THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

As we would expect, Our Lady plays an important role in the spirit and liturgy of Advent. During Advent (and Christmastide), the Divine Office concludes every day with the Marian antiphon *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. The Ember Days (third week) of Advent bring us the Gospels of the Annunciation and Visitation, and so this week has a distinct Marian tone to it. In many places, especially on the Ember Wednesday it is customary to have a candle-lit Mass early in the morning in honour of Our Lady. This is the so-called *Rorate Mass*, from the first word of the Introit, and expectant mothers in particular make a point of attending it. Of course it is also not by coincidence that the great feast of the Immaculate Conception always falls during Advent. It was by this singular privilege, designed to prepare a worthy dwelling place for the Incarnate Word, that God put into motion his plan for the salvation of the human race. On the Sundays of Advent, it is most fitting to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. In all, about 25 Advent liturgical texts (antiphons, responsories, etc.) speak of Mary.

## ISAIAS THE PROPHET

Isaias is one of four Old Testament figures called the Major Prophets. Indeed, he is sometimes nicknamed the “Fifth Evangelist” (Gospel writer), because his predictions of Our Lord’s life—especially his Passion—are so clear that they give the impression of having been recorded by an eye witness. All through Advent, the readings at the Divine Office of Matins are taken from Isaias. His prophecies concerning the miraculous Virgin Birth of the Messiah make him a fitting prophet for this season, especially: “Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son” (7:14), and “Before she was in labour, she brought forth” (66:7). Isaias lived in the eighth century B.C., and he is commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The versicle *Rorate cæli*, “Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One,” which is sung every day in Advent at Vespers, is taken from Isaias. He was martyred by being sawed in twain under King Manasses.

## SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Our Lord’s kinsman Saint John the Baptist, the son of Zachary and Elizabeth, is the last and greatest of all the prophets. Three of the four Sunday Gospels (second through fourth Sundays) of Advent focus on the character and ministry of Saint John. His cry, *Parate viam Domini*, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” is sung as a versicle every morning of Advent at the office of Lauds. The figure of Saint John reminds us that Advent is not in fact merely a preparation for Christmas, the commemoration of the historical birth of Our Saviour, but a preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord, for which we must prepare by doing penance. Along with Our Lord himself and the Virgin Mary, Saint John is the only person whose birth is



celebrated with a liturgical feast (June 24<sup>th</sup>). With the gradual increase of daylight after Christmas and the gradual shortening of daylight after the Nativity of Saint John, nature herself seems symbolically to confirm this word of the great Forerunner: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). A secondary feast in honour of his beheading is kept on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 coffee hour today. 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.



**CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
NOW AVAILABLE  
*Celebrate Christmas and support the Institute!*  
**\$20 per pack (10 cards)**

*Traditional Oplatki are also available during Advent, while supplies last.*

### “Accountability Sunday”

In keeping with diocesan policy, you can find the annual posting of the parish financial summary on our website (it will appear under the “Bulletins” tab, in conjunction with this Sunday’s bulletin entry).

### Listen Our Pastor on the air!

At 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> Canon Altieri will be a guest on the Veritas Catholic Network.

Tune in to 1350AM or on the Veritas app... and call in to show your support!

(440) VERITAS / (440) 837-4827  
[www.veritascatholic.com](http://www.veritascatholic.com)

Download the app here!



December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

Advent Sunday